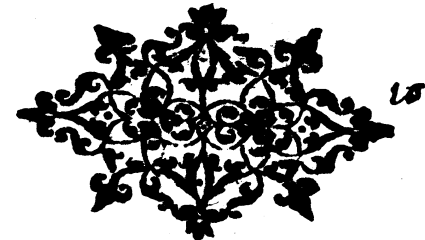
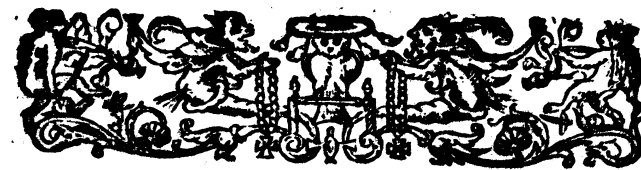


T H E
Famous Historie of
Chinon of England, with his
strange aduentures for the loue of Ce-
lestina daughter to Lewis King
of Fraunce.

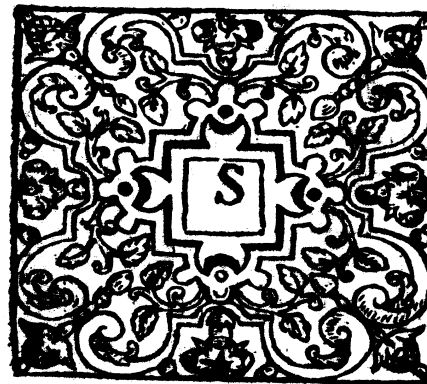
With the worthy Atchiuement
of Sir Lancelot du Lake, and Sir Tristran
du Lions for faire Laura, daughter to Ca-
der Earle of Cornewall, beeing all
Knights of King Arthurs
round Table.
By Chr. Middleton.



AT LONDON,
Printed by Iohn Danter, for Cuthbert Burbie, and
are to be sold at his shop by the Royall
Exchange. 1597.



To the right worshipfull Master
Edward Stanley Esquire.



I R, were I not
more comforted
with assurance of
your Generous
disposition, than
perswaded of a-
nie merit on my
part, by offering
the Patronage of

this Historie to your hands ; I should as
certainly dispaire of the acceptaunce, as I am
uncertaine whether it bee worthie to bee ac-
cepted From the time of my first entraunce
in Printing till now, it is the first Booke of
this kinde I euer had power to dedicate, from
my first yeres of capacitie to read anie printed
thing, my affectionate durie hath to your W.
been dedicated.

Enisham one of your Lordships was my
A 2 birth

The Epistle Dedicatorie.

birth-place, and as my Friends there pay duties for the place they live in, so send I this here as part of my dutieous loue.

The Authour of the Booke hath left it to the wide world without a Patron, perchance esteeming it unworthie protection: neyther doo I thinke it in the least part worthie your protection, before whose excelent iudgement (so daily conuersant among the most iudiciall) it cannot but vanish like light smoake before a bright flame. All my excuse is loue, all my request is pardon; which as (I first inferd) your noble disposition assures mee of. On which foundation building, I cease now to bee more bold,

Your *W^{or}ships*, most dutifully affectionate:

John Danter.



The famous History
of Chinon of England, Sonne to
Lord Cador Earle of Cornwall, with his rare
atchiuevements for faire *Cellestina* daughter
to *Lewes King of Fraunce.*

CHAP. I.

How *Chinon* the Earle of *Cornewalles* Sonne
was borne a foole, and of the excellent orna-
ments of nature wherewith his faire Sister
Laura was beautified.



In the beginning of this flourishing
Kingdome, when *Arthur* then Mo-
narch of this little worlde, with his
attendant knights, whose valorous
exploits euery where acted for theyr
Countries honour, hath eternized
their euerlining names, euen in the
farthest coasts of the barbarous *Wagans*, where yet in
despite of consuming time liues their eternal *Trophies*
as spectacles for all posterities.

The famous Historie

In this time liued there in England an auncient Knight, whome this famous king for his many merits and well deseruing dedes, had installed in the Earle-dome of Cornwall, a dignity as hee thought fitting the deserts of this famous man, that had so often vndergone the furious attempts of the vniuill Pagans, enemies to God, foes to his countrie, and great hindrances to the then but young plants of springing Christianity, as also endeavouring himselfe euery where to defend the fame of his countrie, then of all other only fame worthy the Honour of his order euery where honored, and the dutie belonging to his Knighthood, which hee alwaies performed, till at the last when the waight of many wearie yeares, gan bove his declining bodie downe to the lowly earth, making his oft tried Armour too heauie a burthen for his now war weakned body, his brandishing sword beating downe his age fallen armes, and euery supporter of his lustie limmes begins to faile of their former force, he determines to end his life in peace at home, whose beginning he had spent in warres abroad, encouraging younger men with the spectacle of his former valours, courageously themselves to attempt the like indures.

In which time of his home aboad, the heauens blessed him with two goodly Children, a Sonne & a Daughter: but yet as it is the continual course of al ruling fortune to mixe with euery good some ill, with euery sweet a sorrow, & with euery sunshine shole of promising hap, a tempestuous storme of ill boading hurt, so fared it in the issue of this yet unhappie Prince: For when the stealing houres of all ripening time had brought them from their Infant Cradles to some participation of sensible knowledge, his Daughter whose name was Laura, so forwardly prospered in euery Liniment of her beautiful bodie, & all eternall qualities of a vertuous minde:

so

of Chynon of England.

so that in short time she became the censured subiect of all wise iudgements, in determination whether nature had better beautified her bodie, (where indeede shee had exceeded her self) or the Gods qualified her mind, where in they had made her the only similitude of themselves. No penne that was not busied in painting her praises, though all too little for that purpose, and no tongue but was still telling her perfections, though they neuer could attaine them: for too bright was her beautie, to be shadowed in the coulozing cunning of a mortall capacitee, and too high her heauenly minde, to be enscould with the earthlie weedes of mans base wit, that as the toile some Sailers in the dangerous Seas watching the mistunes of a tedious night, both with themselves mightily admire the gorgeous state of many twinclicking stars, till when the silver Moone proudlie rising from her glorious bed, draws backe their daseled eyes to behold her more than common countenance: so fares it in this age of theirs, where no starre may compare with her state, no face with her faire fortune, no no grace with the least glimpse of her glorie: so to leaue to expresse that in wordes, which could not be comprehended in all wits, neuer did nature before compose of so rude a Chaos, so comely a creature: But her Mother whose name was Chynon, outwardly formed in as faire a fashion, as might well become the sonne to such a fire, but in his minde more than a maimed man, wanting that portion of sensible capacity which commonly doth accompany euen the meanest seruilitie: So that by how much his Sister exceeded in extraordinarie wisdom, by so much was hee scanted in ordinarie witte, where in stead of Princely feature, was nothing found but foolish behaviour, for high atchiuementes boyish follies: for that which is required in a man, not so much as is commonly found in a childe, vncapable of the rudiments of good

The famous Historie

counsaile, and busst to conceine the commoditie of comelie qualittie: whence as all men with admiration wondered at the one, so none but with commiseration pittied the other, that so well fashioned a body should containe so ill formed a minde, strongly had nature forged his limbes, which promised his valour, but weakely had the enuious fates framed his mind, wher was no hope of better, So that heere nature unnaturally handling so good a subiect, had enclosed in the perfecte body of a man, little better than the vnperfect soule of a beast, like almost the imitating of an apish artificer, that in faire shewes deciphers a soymall substance, in curious cunning colours painting a Princely perfection, which satisfies the outward sence as the same, but cannot content the inward conceit, beeing but a bare shew: So by euery outward appearance was he iudged well, till triall by experience to euery one proued him worse, but how great a cosseue it was to his careful Parents, I leaue it to the to consider whom experience hath taught to conceaue the like inconuenience, great grieve was it to his old father that had bene himselfe full of valour, to see his young sonne though able, yet vnfit for any such endenour, which turned his hoped for rest to haplesse ruine, his aged mirth to angrie moane, and what so euer other content, into a contrarie conceit, to see his poore neighbours comfort their seruile liues with the sight of their forwarde Children, and hee their vnsfortunate Lord wanting that redresse which those poore creatures in respect of him in such plentifull manner do daylie possesse.

Thus grieuing to remember that which hee cannot forget, and forrie to haue so discontented an obiect to his aged eyes, which he stil bewailed, though by no meanes his griefe could be healed, atlast learns with patience to beare that which with paines he cannot amend, and instantly

of Chinon of England.

instantly solicites the great Parlament of heauen, in whose dispose rests the estate of all creatures, that in their vnsearchable wisdome they woulde either open the eyes of his blinded soule, forged in the mistie vale of a cloudy ignorance, or els cut short the vnpleasant date of his wearie life, and so preuent the insuing ignominie of his future times: where we must now leaue him a while in his follie, till the proesse of our History bring vs thither againe.



CHAP. II.

How two of King *Arthurs* Knights, ariued in Earle *Cadors* Court, and how *Launcelot du Lake* obtained the loue of faire *Laura*.



uring which time this young Ladie Daughter to this worthie Earle Cador, with the report of her matchles beautie, resounded in euery eare the welcome sounde of selfe pleasing loue, and thereby incited many aduenterous Princes, and matchles knightes to forsake their farthest Countries with contented trauailes, to confirme with their eyes what had

The famous Historie

so filled their longing eares, as doth the neuer moving
pole by the adamantine tonche of enerie steele con-
passe, still to direct their purpose to one point, so fared it
here, whether declines the glance of aleics, the thoughts
of all harts, and the aime of all actions, amongst whom
arriued two knightes of the honourable order of King
Arthurs rounde Table, which was then so fullie furni-
shed with a peareles troupe of couragious Cavaliers,
as iustly compared with all countries for like compa-
ny, whose names were Sir Lancelot du-lake, and Sir
Tristram du-Lions, two wonders for their worthines,
matchles for their might, and for their curtesie excee-
ding compare: who amongst many millions of other
braue Gallants there all for one purpose assembled,
proudly opposed themselves against all approaching
powers both of sovraine and homeborne foes that durst
any way set themselves against her Soueraignetie,
wherein they so valiantly behaued themselves, especial-
lie Sir Lancelot du-lake, whose vndaunted courage
strooke such terror to the hearts of his foes, and won such
faueur in the sight of his friends, as hee was generallie
admired of all; but especiallie of Laura whose maiden
heart being nowe touched with the pique of affection,
receaued so deepe an impression, as could neuer after
be raced forth againe, and looke as there is no substance
without his accident, no fire without his smoake, nor
shadow without his body: so is there no loue how close-
ly soeuer it bee shadowed, how cunningly soeuer it bee
dissembled, or how farre so euer remoued, but will by
some meanes manifest it selfe, which in her proued true:
for though her modest countenance blushing, ashamed
at first to discouer the earnest affection of a so soone con-
quered louer, labored what in her lay still to repress her
new mounting thoughts winged with the aspiring de-
sire of a restless leuer: yet like fire the more it is kept
downe

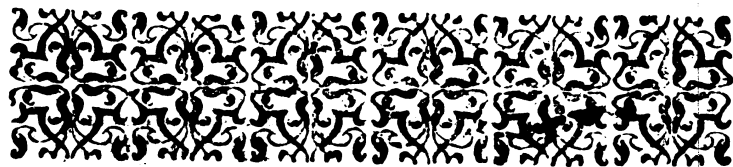
of Chinon of England.

downe the fiercer it riseth, floods the surer they are stop-
ped, the sooner they ouerslow their bankes, and winds
the greater that are their oppositions, the more furious
are their forces: so fared it with the laboring heart of
this lawles louer, sometimes determining to disclose
with her tongue what lay so hid in her heart, and then
she blushed for shame: then determined to smother it
in obliuion; and then looke she pale as fainting in dis-
paire: no minute but there entred into her minde the
thought of a thousand doubtles, no doubt but redoubled
her trouble some thoughtes, and both more and more
doubtles, still increases the unquenchable fire of her
loue-thirsting soule.

In that thinges by howe much they are hard to com-
passe, by so much are more worth being once compassed,
gladly would she forget that which most she delighteth
to remember, faine would she shunne the snare that she
so willingly runneth into, and desires to winke at that
she doeth most desire: On the other side the worthie
knight despairing of his good fortune, or els doubting
his former force, grew with melancholly demeanour to
spend halfe in dispaire, the dayes hee was wont to over-
passe in the fulnes of desire, thinking eyther her affec-
tions were els where so thoroughly settled as could not be
seuered, or his worth meriting demeanour deserued not
so much as a fauore aspect from those powerfull planetts
that guide the distressed estate of his sickle soule. Like
as a weary wayfaring man, that tired with the toilsome
labour of a tedious trauaile, dispaireing with in his time
to enjoy the end of his iourney, and therefore bleth a
speedier pace to performe his purpose, so fared it with
the still troubled minde of this distressed knight, who
determining with himselfe how he might worke some
meanes that might merrite mercie in the moode cen-
sure of that disaimefull Judge, who as he thought
with

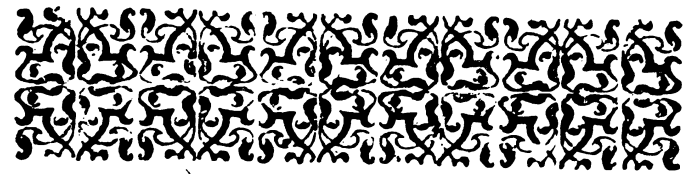
The famous Historie

with a seuerer sentence, would rather pronounce his death than promise his life, determined with himselfe how he might doe his endeavour to obtain her friendly fauour, which with long consultation hee thus concluded, namely to undertake some hardie aduenture, & dedicate his labour to her loue, and so if peradventure the happie course of all helping heauens did so prosperously further his attempts, as that in his wearie plotted way, hee might but fortunately finde any worthe worke, whose conquest might deserue commendations, he fed himselfe with this hope, that the settled perswasion of his sure loue confirmed by the dangerous endeuors of his longing life, perfectly presented to her memorie, by the atcheiuelements of his worthe victorie, wold somewhat assuage the fury of her contemptuous conceit, & if not at the first win her, yet by little & little weare out the blot from her memorie, that detaines his loue from her minde: yet least his abrupt departure might be a greater cause of his disgrace, hee determined before hee went to paint forth that passion in the vnblushing lines of an amorous letter, which he could not disclose with the inoffensive worde of a pittie mouing loue, & therefore sequestering himselfe from the resort of all company, hee thus in pittiful termes discouers his pure loue.



Lanc-

of Chinon of England.



Lancelot du-Lake, to the Soueraigne of his soule, matchles faire *Laura*.



Laura, pardon my rude proceeding, in that I so barely begin with thy naked name, for that thou dimmest all accents of fayre, and exceedest all Epithites of wit, the Poets thought *Venus* fayrest when she was naked, for that her beautie being sufficient of it selfe, scorned all the artificiall ornaments of rich apparrell: And so of thee, whose shaddow fairer than her substance, canst not bee fitted with any stile which thou doest not farre surmount: Looke downe vppon the seruile estate of a subiect slaue, that burning in the fierce flame of a neuer dying fire, prostrates his sillie soule at thy perfections shrine, so deeply imprinted in his hart, as but the comfort of thy pleasing selfe, no salue may ease his dying smart,

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only

The famous Historie

onely thou hast hurt mee, and saue thy selfe none can heale mee. Ah doo not then triumph in my tragedie, because peculiarly from thee proceedes my remedie: nor bee not proude of thine Art, because thus piteouslie I implore thine aide, but with gentle fauour intertaine what with humble submission I intreat; and in requitall of that deede I will impose to my selfe a toile without rest, a trauell without end, and be a Conquerour without conquest, till my ceaselesse paine may deserue thy pittie, my toilesome trauell procure our truce, and the Trophies of my victorie requite some part of thy curtesie: Thus what I doe or what I suffer, what I presently possesse, or whatsoever I shall haue, I sacrifice at thy Altar, as propitiatorie offerings, and with the sad sighes of a sorrowfull hart cense thy sacred Shrine, still intreating but this, that thou wouldest gently accept these rude lines of a rude Louer, and when discontented distance shall diuorce mee from thy Angelicall presence, thou wouldest at the least pittie my sorrow, though thou wilt not salue my sore.

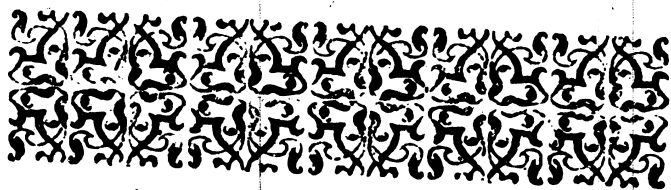
Thine whilst his owne
Lancelot du Lake.

of Chinon of England.

This Letter he deliuered to a Page attendant upon him, and whilst his seruant was gone to conuay it to her, himselfe went in to take his leaue of the Duke and the rest of his Noble friends and fellow Knights, where with a tedious discourse he discouers the cause of his so sodaine departure, bowing his deuoted seruice wholly to her honoꝝ, for whose loue he was now forced to leaue his Country, and seeke strange Aduentures in foraine Coastes, whom they all were sorry to forgoe; yet seeing his importance, solemnely commits him and his intended enterprises to the good fortune of his still fauourable starres, except Sir Tristram du-Lyons, who for loue of him, and honourable care of his solempne order, would needs in despite of what euer contrarie persuasions, accompany him in his course: whom when Sir Lancelot had with many perswasive arguments of forceable friendship diswaded from his indeuour, laying open vnto him the great cause of his dolefull departure, which so deuoutly hee had bowed to performe, as also what discontent the absence of so many Knights would breed in their King and Captaine Arthur of England, whose royall furnished Table had ransacked the treasure of the world for to supply his want: yet all in vaine strone his wordes to diswade the other from his will, for not all the sugered wordes the others oratorie could affoord, would anie whit diswade him from his former purpose: but in despite of what euer accident should ensue, he would needs accompany him in his tournie, bowing to sustaine what hardy strokes of abied misfortune soeuer should betide this thrice famous Lancelot his bowed brother, that neuer should the burning heate of all springing sommer, nor the cruell colde of deade killing winter, weale nor woe, prosperous felicitie,

The famous Historie

nor aduerse extremitie, sunder their soules whilst life did byhold their bodies: whom when Lancelot saw that by no meanes he could diswade, hee gentlie admits his so long desired company, and with as many thanks accepts it, as the other with millions of offers had vied it.



CHAP. III.

How *Lancelot du-Lake*, and *Tristram du-Lions* ariued in the French Kings Court, & how *Lancelot du-Lake* ouercame *Roderigo* Duke of Austria, and wonne the chiefest prizes in the Turnament, with other thinges that hapned.



Thus these two aduenterers for hono^r, after they had solemnly tane their leaues, ioyfully set forwarde on their iournie, & with a prosperous winde quickly cuts ouer the calme consenting Seas vnto the bordering rockes that walles their countrie France from the furie of the sometime surging Sea, and after their arriual, being proudly moun-
ted

of Chinon of England.

ted vpon stately Steades, stout of courage, able of times, and beauteous in show, attended onely with two Pages, who for that purpose they had appointed, takes vpon them the nearest and directest way that bordered vpon that coast where they lately landed, & spending the partching heate almost of a whole summers day wandring through desert woods and manie vnpeopled plaines: till when the sweating Horses, of the weary sunne swiftly descending from the highest top of that heauenly hill, whence in his glory hee ouerlookes the mightiest mountaines that the earth affordes, & by their fiery tract summoned the silent night vp to her wearie watch, they began to looke out where they might espy any convenient place for their purpose, where that night they might repose themselves to rest.

At last after much curious search descending down into the pleasant bottom of a lowly vale, where by chance ran from south, the bowels of a mighty mountaine, a coole fresh spring, whose siluer current shadowed ouer with the heat expelling power of thicke tufted trees, refreshes the increase of all adioyning vallies, who weary with wandering, and willing nothing more than such pleasure as there was plentifully promised, they alighted, and rayning all their horgins with the fresh coole current of that pleasant spring to alay the thirst of their hot stomackes, where they had not long solicited themselves in the shade after their great trauaile, but that an auncient Hermite inhabiting the desert romes of that vnacquainted corner, walking his accustomed iournie, by chauce lightes vpon these wearie knights, as they were cooling their weake limmes in the delightfome depth of that pleasant spring, who as ioyfull to see some creature,

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ture of whome they might be better directed for the furderance of their affaires, as the other was willing to supplie their wants, with that poore prouision that himselfe wanted not, they with curteous salutation entertaine him, and bee curteously regreting them with the like wishes of good lucke, requires what, whence, and who they were that had so farre wandred from the beaten wayes of those wide Deserts, to whome Lancelot with reuerent regard to his olde age, mildly answers that they were two Knights of the round Table, aduenterers in Armes, that had for the honoꝝ of their order, the credit of their countrie, & the loue of their loue worthy Ladies, undertaken to trauals euen as far as stune and seas, the one would giue them light, and the other affoꝝd them land.

Then answered the old Hermite, are you happely come into these Confinnes: for not far from hence is the great Court of that mighty Monarch Lewes of France, that for the eternall memorie of all succeeding posterity, hath for to trie the strength, valour, & manhood that all the wide world can affoꝝd, appoynted thre Prizes, the first a rich Armeur curiously wrought, and richly bee deckt with precious stones, whose worth I cannot in words sufficiently set forth, with al the habilliments thereunto belonging: the next a gorgeous Bedde curiously couered ouer with beaten gold, the fashion whereof farre exceedeth the worth of the massie worke, & all the rich adorninges thereunto appertaining: the last but best, faire Celerina his daughter and heire, whome I may well call the wonder of our world, whose beantie I will not labour to blase, least sayling in furdering that rare report, I should discredit my selfe in seeming curiously to commend that whose least moystic exceeds the highest reach of any earthly minde: Where
may

of Chinon of England.

may you trie the trust you haue in your selues, & cut short the processe of your long pretended iourne: for that thither will resort all the flowers of Cheualrie, that now flourish ouer the face of the whole world: So morrow begins these triumphes, whether in good time you shall attaine, and for that this day well nigh done, will not affoꝝd you any further trauaile, please it you but to accept the turkis Cabbine of a homely Hermitage, and the simple supper of a illie distressed man, that hauing forsaken the vaine delights of his young dayes, hath betaken himselfe to the melanchollie remembrance of his after life: where to supplie your want of meate, you shall haue store of welcomes, and when the next morne shall bring glad tidings of the swift insuing son, my selfe will direct you backe thither, from whence you far cryed in desiring your wearie iourne hither.

These two Knights curteously accepting the pleasure of this aged Hermite, contented themselves that night with the vnbolstred bed of a hard hurdle, & while the lively Larke a glad some Herald to the dawning day, gan with her siluer sounding note to discharge the melanchollie gloming night, hence haste these fane following aduenterers, to practise their forward indouours, whome the olde Hermite duclie directes how they should againe get into the great traced way that directie would carrie them to the Court, and so with manie praiers for their good spede, committeth them to the charge of him that carieth the care of all creatures: from whence they had not long traualled recounting to themselves the happie chance of theyr spede actual, but befoꝝe them ouer an euen levelled plaine, they might espie a wide beaten way, being full fraught with still approaching traualers, that like a huge and mightie streame sending all
his

The famous Historie

his force to the sea, turnes all the course of their con-
ueiance to one end, directes their Iourney with al speed
thither, supposing that to be the way that should lead
them to the Court, and those trauailers wandring
thither to be witnesses of the rare report of those deeds
of Armes, wherof their old Host had the other night
giuen such great commendations: where when they
came, they found it to be even so as they before imagi-
ned, and turning themselves that way whither pres-
sed the streame of the increasing company: At last
they overtooke a mightie knight clad in habilliments
of gold, such as was the Armour of Achilles, moun-
ted on a blacke Barbarian Steede, that with his stately
gate stoutly contendes to put downe his Paster in
pride, trapped with the rich pompe of Persian works,
curiously set with starres like Diamonds, that play-
ing with the dazeling beames of the golden Sunne,
dimes all the gazing eyes of the greedy beholders: be-
fore him rides richly mounted ten Esquiers bearing
ten lustie Launces, and thus marching in a trium-
phant state as euer did Caesar in the Romane streets,
he comes to the Court, where were readie prepared
all necessarie circumstances for such knightly serui-
ces: where before the Court vpon a plaine graine
provided for that purpose, the attendants appointed
to be erected a riche Pavillion of wealthie wrought
Crimson silke, the ropes of the same colour wrought
with finer threds, and what els belonged to the sup-
porting thereof was workemanlike wrought of
the same mettall: there till the time that euery thing
was ready for the Tilt, he reposes himselfe, where
Lancelot longing to knowe and proue what was con-
tained with in all this sort, boldly gins inquire of an
attendant vpon him what he should be, who answer-
ed that his Paster was sonne and heire to the great
Soldan

of Chinon of England.

Soldan of Babilon, drawn from his Country with
the fame of faire Celestina, for whose loue hee came
thither, to aduenture his life.

Shortly after approaches the place another puissant
knight clad all in blacke, and he onely attended by a
little Page that bore his Lance, erected a sable Tent
of whom when he required to knowe, it was answer-
ed that he was called Triamore, sonne to the Duke
of Brittain, who for that hee had long affected this
beauteous Prince (for whose sake all this was prou-
ided) and the with like affection answered his loue,
seemed discontented in himselfe, that the should be
offered to any but himselfe.

Next him came many other of whome were too
long leuerally to dilate. But in the ende when all
were ready, & euery thing for these stately triumphs
orderly provided, the Prizes brought forth, the
Judges set, and euery other appurtenance orderly
appointed, the first that entred the Lists was Ferdi-
nand heire to the Emperour of Almane, mounted on
a white Courser, that being artificially arrayed with
cunning conceited wings, Peggasean-like deceaued
the earnest eyes of euery beholder, with a shewe of
fained flight.

Against him prepares a Pagan, mightie of body,
and cruell of countenance, who furiously meeting,
like the fatall opposition of two Elements, shivers
their strong staues, whose splinters spinning in the
emptie Aire, with their buzzing sound, tells the braue
encounters of their furious fight from whome they
flew, which course the Pagan borne from his Horse,
and soe bruised with the big bound of his untwincible
body, was conuayed from the place of their Chival-
ric, almost past hope of recovery.

In whose reuenge stepped forth many mightie
men,

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men, hardie and approued knights whome this young Prince with like furie, forced to fall with their fellows: till at last like an angry Boare newly roused from his browlie den, bustling by his big bristles, as aiming at an act of rigorous reuenge, steps forth the proud Soldans sonne, and he picking his Walfray to the end he might rigorously root out the springing hope of this young Prince, clapping as heauie a Lance in his strong rest, as euer Ajax bore the walles of Troy, thured for the recouerie of their unhappie losse: euen like the furious stroke of two strong streames, that with their terrible thunder affrights the vnaccustomed eares of their neare neighbours: mates in the midst of the Lists the liuely Lordes, where with equall encounters they were both dung downe to the ground, where Ferdinand his horse unhappily falling vpon his Masters leg, so brused it, as hee was not able againe to recouer his saddle, but was conueyed thence: which when the young Soldan perceaued, stoutlye triumphing in his valiant victorie gins sauncely to proclaime a proud challenge against all Christians, for the reuenge of those sore punished Pagans: which vaine glorious vaunt so stirred by the neuer vanquished valour of valiant Lancelot, as that addressing him to the fight, gins he w himselfe at the other ende of the Lists, as ready to recouer the almost lost Honor of his Christian Countrie, whome so soone as the Soldan had espied, spreading his wings like a greedy Goshauke houering ouer a fearefull suite of cowardly Fowles, gins addresse himselfe to his former demeanour: whome Lancelot with such courage encountered, as bearing downe both horse and man to the ground, astonished the vnchristened slave with so fearefull a fall, as almost quite expelled the vitall spirits from his bigge swollen breasts: But yet feeling him-

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himselfe in so great a daunger of deuouring death, & out of all hope of the pittifull compassion of his eager enemy, beganne againe to rouse himselfe, and speedily preparing his strong fencing furniture, to assay the fortune of a furious fight, casting over his shoulder a large sheltering shield and brandishing in his hand a keene edged Curle-axe, gins nowe a foote to assayle him, that before on horse backe hee did assault.

When Lancelot perceaued it, he prouided himselfe for the like purpose, and couragiously encounters this harme hammering Heathen, where betwixt them againe beganne a farre more fiercer fray on foote, then was the cruell encounters before with their horse, which continuing very long on both sides confirmed with the fierce falles of their vnwildie weapons, makes at length Sir Lancelot du-Lakes armes (weakened with the issue of much blood, that the Pagan had spilt with his blowes) almost to faile of his former forces, which being espied of the Christians, and especially of the King, who aboue all other, despised a Pagan should possesse so Princely a Prize, as they had there prouided, gins euery where to enquire of that knight, on whose strength almost nowe depended their whole estate, to whom at length word was brought that it was a knight of King Arthurs round Table, whose name was Sir Lancelot du-Lake, to whome all the Confines of Christendome hardly in Chivalrie afforded a fellow: which stroke such a dismall dumpe into the moodie minde of this discontented King, to see the Champion of Christendome so nere vanquished, vnder the pittifull power of a most hellish heathen, as almost driues the bright and Rosiall colour from his afore well coloured Cheekes.

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Will when this still triumphant knight shakeing himselfe as from a sluggish slumber, reaches at the Bagan with such power, as that at one blow with his well tempered sword, hee quite cuts a sunder the strong turret that hemmed in his head, & settling surther downe to his harmefull head, batters a sunder the bluer wall that shieldes the principall partes of soule serving sence, and the rest remayning remnants of that little worlde, wanting the direction of their greatest guide, altogether faile any further to sence their fainting fellows from his battering blowes, which sight byed no small content to the almost sickly soule of the King, who expected nothing lesse then the so speedy death of his spitefull foe, who being by the conquered disarmed of his rich habilliments, was by the rest of his company quickly conuaied to his curions Tent, and all his attendants sent home with sorrow, that whilome flourished in such hope for felicitie.

After this approached many other knights to trie their fortunes in that fight: from whence Sir Tristram du-Lions won the hono^r of that day, still working for greater glorie with more manlike demeano^r: Will when the nights blacke shadow, gins set an end to that dayes bright shewes, and so every one expecting the end of their adventuring, thronged to heare the iust iudgement of that sure censoring Senate, so appointed by the King to determine of this doubt, who with one assent after they had highly commended the many valerous deedes of diuers couragious Cavaliers, did above all wholly attribute the hono^r of that dayes dutie to Sir Lancelot du-Lake, as one that had best deserved it of them all, and so putting him to the King, at whose hands he was to receave this renowned reward: he there with no lesse pleasure to heare the

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the murmuring noyse of the muttering multitud, buzzing the report of his valerous deedes: then with the hope of those rich rewardes appointed for the Conquerours meed, receaued at his Kingly hands all those robes, of more than estimable estate, and whatsoeuer by due was fitting his desert.

Amongst which was that more than faire Celestina, for whom rather than the rest was assembled such and so many mightie men, euen from the furthiest Coasts of al the Esterne Kingdomes to the Westerne Isles, bound by in the Oceans bosome: but for that himselfe had before settled his seruice, to honour that saint whose Idea grauen with the Diamond points of Christall caruing eyes, in the impregnable table of his secret heart, whence no furie of newe assaulting force, can euer wash it away, determines in this to winne to himselfe the report of more worth, than by his former acts he had fully atchieued: and therefore with many thanks to his Maiestie, receauing the rewardes of his honour, which now lay all in hys power to dispose after some conference, such as to like affaires are most fit, calling for Sir Tryamore, of whome we before told you, that he was sonne & heire to the Brittain Duke, gins thus discourse his honorable intent.

Since quoth he the vnmerited mercy of euer helping heauen, from the great attemptes of many more mightier than my selfe, hath attributed the honour of this day to the undeserved dutie of my deede: By the censure of which sentence, I am to enioy the possession of all this pleasure, whose especiall god, rests in the glorie of this more than a Goddesse: yet since my minde not cappable of her loues impression, because alrerady it retaineth the beautie of another, in such sure possession, as that no time can trie it, no heu-

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tie blot it, nor other loue with languishment laniſh it
 away, to thee will I giue what I might by right take
 away, and ſo gaine moze honour by the voluntary re-
 lease of her loue to thee, then I ſhould get ſame by the
 forceable detayning of her affections to my ſelfe: In
 which I ſhall binde thy loue to me, as to a friend, her
 liking as to a fauor of her fortunes, and further the
 faire fruite of a yet ſcarce blooming bud, in the bleſſed
 boſome of anothers beautie; & ſo deliuering her freely
 ouer to Sir Triamore, twiſt whom there had bene
 afoze ſuch ſettled likeing of likely loue, to the Kinges
 great content, the louers full conſent, and his owne
 moze furthered intent, he diſpoſed of the greateſt part
 of his prize: the other ſeueral rewardes he determined
 to ſend ouer into England to preſent to his Laura: ſo
 whose conueyance he adreſſed a truſtie Eſquire of his
 owne, that from a childe had followed him in all his
 actions of honoꝛ: where awhile we muſt leaue him
 to his further aduentures, and proceede the preſent-
 ment of his Prize to his peareles Barramour, which
 by his Page was quickly performed: who flying
 with the fauorable fortune of well wiſhing windeſ,
 in ſhorter ſpace than commonly accompanieth ſuch fi-
 red travellers, arrived in England at the olde Carle
 Cadors Court, where was then a Royall aſſembly of
 Courtlike company: to whom when it was knowne
 that there was arrived one ready to tell ſtraunge ty-
 pings of the admirable atchievements of their late for-
 tune ſinging friends, aſſembled all to gether to heare
 thoſe welcome wordes into the Carles great Hall:
 where both himſelfe, his daughter and his vnſeemly
 ſonne, as alſo the reſt of that Royall reſort, ſerke
 placed with attentive diligence, quieted themſelues to
 heare expreſſed thoſe ſtraunge exploits: to whose
 preſence did preſe a comely Eſquire attended by a
 Judging

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Judging a Dwarfſe that was loaded with a rich Ar-
 mour, who after he had in order rendred deſeruing
 duty to euery ſeueral aſſemblant, thus deliuered his
 meſſage.

Great Carle to whose honoꝛ wholly ſubmittes it
 ſelfe the whole worth of his worke, that from the
 ſterce ſurie of Alians armes hath brauely boyn away
 theſe Princely rewardes. Grant pardon to my raſh re-
 ſort, and giue licence to my truth telling tonge in ſe-
 uerall wordes to diſcloſe the eſpecial cauſe of my haſtie com-
 ming: and then with the honorable accitents of theſe
 worthy wortheie wars, giue he to paint forth the prai-
 ſes of that famous fight: wherein from the ſtil flow-
 ing force of many furious foes, had his matchles ma-
 ſter brauely boyn away the home brought battles:
 which tale hee ſo furniſhed with fitting Epethites,
 and true titles of aduenterous valour, as neuer ſung
 the ſweet tuned tongue of heauenly Tullie in the fa-
 mous Capitoll of ſtil renowned Rome, with moze
 applauſiue ſpeeches of a truth vying tale, extolling
 the eternized honoꝛ of thoſe thrice famous aduente-
 rours with the heauen ſcaling ſtile of a moze than
 earthly Vration: and then with the blaſt tragike
 tunes of ſtraunge miſfortune, ſuch as was the Art
 framed action of that Thracian Knight, when he de-
 ſcribed to doleful Dido the true ſtory of Troys eſtate:
 To whose powerfull ſpeech liſtned the attentive care
 of that pittie mouing Prince of whom we befoze told,
 who the happy heauens diſperſing now the ſable vale
 of ſad faced ſollie, that ſo long in the darke Dungeon
 of ignominy, had lockt by the happines of his after
 hopes, being now able in himſelfe to ſee, that which
 befoze in another he could not diſcerne, euen as the
 Eagle after her age caſts her bill, the Serpent ſlides
 off his ſkin, or the wanton Bucke his harmles head:

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So he to the great admiration of all those worthy witnesses, suddenly starting at the strange tale of this well spoken Page, grievously bewailed the lucklesse date of his forespent dayes that had so sluggishly overslipped the young yeares of his youthfull iollitie in the fabling fancies of childish follie: wherein hee neither had discharged the duty of a sonne, satisfied the honour owing to his countries service, nor won the least part of that worth, that by due desert he saw generally attributed to many men of far meaner birth, & therefore now turning his former foolish demeanours to more virtuously promising endeavours, he suddenly solicited his old sorrowfyled fire, that hee would thus far further his intent, as to graunt him leaue a while to forsake his native soyle, and learne thus to adventure for honoꝝ in far foraine lands, whose instant intreatie not bꝛoking the deferring of further delay, earnestly vꝛged his now more fortunate Father to further so his forwarde Sonne, as that presently providing all such necessities as to him was most needefull, without any more meanes made for his bottlesse abode, fitly furnished him in every point for such a purpose: where every necessary being provided, and himselfe now readie to depart, blessed with the many prayers of his ioyfull father to see his forwarde sonne recovered from the helplese hozꝛ of darke ignorance, to the approving pꝛoofesse of Princely pulance, and with the well willing wishes of all his friendly favorites, he departs his home to seeke his so long lost glorie abroad.

Meane while whilst thus Lancelot had sent over to his Mistresse the afore named favours, speedy preparation was provided in Fraunce for the solemnizing of this Royall marriage betwixt Sir Triamore, and faire Celestina: which for that his father then resident

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being upon his Dukedome, was desirous to content his old conceit with the sight of his sonnes marriage: Sir Triamore earnestly intreated of the King, that he would so farre further his olde fathers request, as to licence their departure home into Brittain, where to the old King willingly condescended and most royally furnished this their ioyfull iourney: whither being attended with sir Lancelot du Lake, and sir Triam du Lions, besides many other aswell vallant Knights as beauty bꝛaving Dames, bꝛawen out from the chiefe choice of all that Countrie, merrily sets forward on their way.

In the meane time the Soldan hearing of the disgraced death of his sonne, and certified by some of his espials, of the pretended purpose of these Christian Princes were the onely sharers of that glorie, gins presently to leue what soeuer his Countrie in so short a time was able to lend, and imbarcking with all speede his Armie, in short time landed all his men upon the unhappy Coast of Brittain, where orderly incamping themselves, about the warlike walls of that strong defended Towne, where the Duke with all his attendants kept then a puissant Court for the welcoming of his sonne and his beautecous Bride; cutting off all those conueying passages, that leades any way to their neighbour compassing Confinnes, removing all semblance of succour from their longing sight: And being further certified of the nere approach of that triumphant troope of vallant victors, that fearing nothing lesse than such troublefull treason, weares out their iourney with such ioy, as experience in farre cleaner mens matters pꝛoues passing all other pleasure.

Whose purpose the subtle Soldan purposing to prevent, in an old overgrown wood, situate some

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four miles from the Citie, sily incompassed a great Scout both of horse and foote: who as soone as they had encompassed this carelesse company within their ill intending Armes, rudely rusht out vpon them who for because their coming some what too sudden in with the other Knights, could hardly prouide to resist their foreplotted purpose, and the numbers so far different, as scarcely might they afford one Christian to twenty Pagans, whereby they were forced to a furious fight: In which same onely Lancelot, Tristram, and Triamore all were slaine, and Celestina mangred all their force, conueyed away in the fight. Which when they perceaued, like three enraged Lions, amidst the tropes of the Forrests feareful inhabitants, prayes vpon the cursed carkases of these vnchristened Curres, till when no more flesh was left for their fire, no remainder whereon they might worke their further reuenge, nor any other subiect for their conquering swords, hope of recovery was past, because their numbers were too great; the furts of further fight in vaine, because themselves were too weak; and being desperate almost, what way to take to find reliefe.

Long time they spent in disputing what were best to doe in this extreame danger, themselves being sore wounded with the many blowes of their over numbred foes, their Armour brused with the oft falling forces of their Foe-mens swords, and their weapons almost all broken in this barbarous battell, incites to their sad thoughts what secure meanes they might seeke for their best safegard.

Being thus left destitute wclnigh of all defence, they wandred by and downe the vntroubden wayes of those wast woods, one reciting this, another inditing that, and the third mistaking both; till when the

comfortlesse

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comfortlesse conering of the sad faced night, gins hide away the life ioying sight of the lightsome day, when these sorrowfull sighing soules wandring in the vnpeopled paths of these wide woods, spent all that tedious night in tyred trauels, sometimes straying this way, and then stepping that way againe, till the sorrow of their slower chance had almost quite taken away the ready remembrance of them selues.

At last as euery sorrowe hath an ende, so had this long night, and the pleasant spring of the next insuing day gins somewhat to cheare vp their troubled mindes from the cruell cares of their ouer passed paines, when determining with themselves to make speedy post to euery seueral Christian Kingdome, and from thence to leaue such powers of people, as should perforce make this heathen Hel-hound againe to render vp to their handes this beauty staining Bride, whom he had so cowardly caught away: Will wandring together downe the pleasant side of a summer showing hill they might espy beneath in the broad bottom of a dismall dale a great woone way, yet not such as accustomably are the conueyances of peopled beaten pathes, but as it were the fatall footsteps of some mighty Monster that with his ill favoured feete had poysoned the sprouting springes of that pleasant Plaine. Which after they had a long time followed, prying euery way what this wonder should import: At last they a farre off might heare the vnaccustomed cryes (as it should seeme) of some tormented soule, that beeing grievously afflicted with some straunge torments, made those ruthfull moanes to moue the compassionate mindes of some wayfaring wanderer to deliuer her from that great miserie: which they like two lost felicites in a great growne woods, that with the resounding Ecchoes of the

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to be shrieking cries, hzings themselves after long search together againe, who listning from what like-liest place this same might growe, at last vnder the darke shade of a haltring Cypresse that ouerhung the mouth of a craggie Caue, he went out (as it should seeme) of the big body of a ruinous Roche, they might perfectly perceiue the same to procede: Whither passing in all hast, striding who should stand in most need for the release of this losse (as they supposed) rudely they together ran downe without regard into this darke Denne, who as soone as they were in, from out the darke covert of another cabbinning Caue crept forth a mightie Monster, framed with the deceitfull face of a faire woman, but the big body of a subtile Serpent, whose poison shooke bowelles bearing the breadth of a mighty Tunne, was supported with the loyntles legs of a Castle carrying Elephant, hands had she in forme like a man, but in the substance of her frame more than a monster, a tale that serpent like catcheth in the vnprovided traualers, her backe strongly fenced with broad buckling scales, that proudly opposes it selfe against the toughest steale, her force more than could bee comprehended within the reach of a reasonable conceit: for she (after her Crocodile complaints she had) drawing the harmlesse knight into that subtile snare, quickly roates vp against the mouth of the hole a mightie Stone, which the force of many men could not els remove, and so locking in these well meaning men within the compass of her loathsome Denne, she leaues them to the comfortlesse consort of their now almost curelesse cares.

How

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CHAP. III.

How *Chinon* after his transformation from his foolishnes, betooke himselfe to seek for forraine aduentures, and after how hee encountered *Sir Lancelot*, and *Sir Tristram* in a Forrest, where hapned a straunge aduenture, and how *Chiuon* pulled a sword from an inchaunted Rocke of stone.



This had *Chinon* crossed the Seas out of his owne countrie, and arriued in Fraunce where hee neuer came before, and himselfe yet ignorant in the course of traualle, wandred vpe & downe a long time, seeking some worthy work wher he might make triall of his strength. But for that the desolate Coasts bordering vpon the sea side, afforded no matter for his manly courage, after he had there spent some few dayes, he takes a new course of trauell ouer the vntrodden hilles into the bowels of the next bounding Country.

Which weary way, for that his horse being young
 3 and

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and not yet vnto the hard hap of aduentures him-
selfe, euen as a childe that newe sprung from his cra-
dle, can hardly counteruail the worlds weary works;
so fared it with this new knight, who was greedy of
glorie, but vnfit to finde it: yet hoping of better hap,
draues out his iourney ouer many high hilles, and
then settles hee downe into the melancholly shade
of deepe darkened valleys, wher before neuer footed
any earthly creature, saue foule Serpents, no noyle
but the sorrowfull sound of the ill boading Diuile; no
light saue the glimmering of a little beame that shi-
ning through the transparant leaues of blacke Cy-
presse boughes shewed him some comfort amidst this
more than the shadow of death: No meate could hee
come by, saue such as that vnfruitful earth did affoord,
nor drinke saue the troubled streames of an vn-
pleasant spring, that mixed with the vnholosome sorts
of deade dropping leaues full of the filthy slime of
sluggish loades, and many such vnholosome crea-
tures: his Bedde the ouergrowne mosse vpon the side
of the mountaine; his pillowe the toppe of an vneuen
stone; his couering nothing saue the overshadowing
bowes of age trembling trees; his nightly sleepes
often affrighted with the hissing of many foule snakes,
vnacustomable antomes to his eares: yet as he that
will trauell vpon the sea, must addresse himselfe to a-
bide the trouble of euery storme; hee that will enjoy
the sweet content of felicitie, must needs vndergo all
the hard hays of enuious aduersitie: so he that wil in
this spacious world seeke the aduantage of Honour,
must beare bale direction of vnseemely misfortune.

So this yong Prince after hee had long time wan-
dered thus without the direction of any way, at length
espies a far off a chalkie path, scaling the top of a high
hill, whether with much adoe at length he came vnto,
and

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and after he had long time climed vpo the side of this
mount, at length with many wearie steps he attains
the toppe: from whose height hee might againe looke
backe at his ouerspent iourney: following a longe
while the broad tract of that beaten way, presentlie
he came to a narrow cut of passage out of the side of a
flintie Roocke, where the high hill steepe oze his head,
troubles the course of the winde wandring cloudes,
beneath the lowlie bottome of a blacke dismall Dale,
filled with the furious force of aspyring springs, that
working from the wombe of the sea, cuen vnto the
highest toppe of that mightie Montomany, breaks
out againe, and with a sicke fall downe into the dis-
mall Dales, makes such a hideous noyle: as when
the vnbridled force of the ouerflowing sea breakes
downe the boundes of his neighboring bankes, and
drownes all the nere placed plaines, with his euer-
working waters: Yet Chinon still hoping that after
showers, at length would come a sunne; after woes,
weale; & after these hard passages pleasanter plaines,
with as much patience as hee could, ouergoes this
griefe he had, and gins at last to see the farther side of
his towarie way: from whence looking downe, hee
might espie a more pleasant dale, whether descending
by a downe falling path that went into the bottome of
a Hill he gladly at length attained, and there in a
more fresher and pleasanter streame than before of
a long time hee had met withall: hee some what re-
freshes himselfe, and being content with such fruit
as that soyle did afforde him, hee goes forwarde on
hys iournie, still searching for that hee coulde not
finde: At last he came as hee thought to the mouth of
some Cauer that was fullie filled vp with the stronge
bulke of a mightie bigge stone, whose hugeness was
such as could not be removed by the might of manie
men,

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men, where in olde almost outwoyie letters, were these lines ingrauen.

In prison here a puissant wight,
Betraied by cunning craft now lies:
Whence no man but a maiden Knight,
Can free him from his miseries,
Whose first tried valour must assay,
To rid this wretched man away.

Which when he had red and curiously considered, gins to resolute with himself, to assay whether his fortune should bee so good as to performe this service, where looking round about for him that did heere in a peremptorie painted challenge keepe the passage of that place, where this knight whereof mention was there made, is by subtiltie inclosed, at last sodainelie, but from whence he saw not, there was a huge defor- med Monster, such as befoze he selde eie or neuer had seene, whose shape neyther imorted the proportion of man nor beast, but a mixture of them both: from forth the furnace of whose fierie bellie, issues like the ashes of Actna, many cloudie mists of darke smoke, that almost smothered this famous follower of har- dy doodes befoze he began the fight, and in this fogge armed with the bulke of a yong springing Wake, the fell force of whose fall, had bene sufficient to haue ground him a sunder, gins vnawares to assaile him: which when he perceived, nimbly leaping backe to eschue the heauy stroke, prepared in as short space as he could to prouide himselfe for this fray, but ere he could be in euery point armed, gins againe this mon- ster

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After the second time to assault him, which he in the best sort he could deuise, sought means to escape, for to vndergoe it he could not: and then nimbly con- ueying himselfe within the ende of his mighty wea- pon, with his well tempered sworde gins assay to worke vpon the Monster, but all in vaine, for so strongly was it euery where buckled with inescing scales, as no more entrance was afforded for his sword, then if he had stroken vpon the hard face of a flinty Roocke, when the subtle serpent with a sodaine turne gaue the Knight such a heauy blowe with the poysoned weight of her strong tayle, as perforce beat him downe to the ground, and almost banished the breath from his body: But hee mindfull of what hee had in hande, to encounter so vnnaturall an enemy; long lyes not in that case, but nimbly rousing vp himselfe againe, gins freshly to assaile his enemy: who still threating him with the bigg blowes of his vnwieldy weapon, puts him euery way to his shift how he might best shun them.

At last spying a fit oportunitie, he with his sword indeuoured to cut asunder her vnaccustomed kinde of weapon, which in short time he performed, so that now free means he had for to assay what he could do vpon her vnwieldy body: But all his labour was lost, for so safely was she garped from all entrance, as not the keenest Steele the smoakie Cyclops forged for the mighty God of wrathfull warre, could euer enter into her: when hee troubled at once with two illes, the furious force of her serpentine taile, which now proues her best weapon, and the bymische fla- ming which still issued out at the Furnace of her fiery mouth.

At the last after much labour, the weary Knight tyred almost with this tedious toyle, gins some what

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to returne backe, to the end he might recouer againe his nic lost breath: which sight for that the Serpent did not with such eager force pursue, as he was wont to doe in the beginning of their fight, hee made longer stay to recouer thereby better strength, & then as two furious fighting Stagges that fetching a farre flight, thereby to encounter with moze force, begins againe these new olde enuies and with their furious blowes so plagued one another, as if the opposition of two great Armies had sent the noyse of their battering Armes from euery resounding echo: till at length after the many fierce assaults of the furious Knight, hys foyled enemy in a sudden as he came, vanishes away, which he suspecting but to be some diuclish deuise, with an intent to set vpon him againe at vnawares, gins circumspectly to pise into euery corner, to the end he might be sure that no intrapping ambushes of her hobgoblin companions, might priuily lurk to insnare his life: when vnawares he perceaued the mighty stone so meruailously laid ouer the Cause of it selfe to roule away, and from south the hole issues out thre goodly Knights, two whereof he knew, for hys Countrymen and olde acquaintance: but the thirde which was a stranger he neuer saw before, these were they of whome we said afore were by the subtil shift of a deceauing Syzen, cunningly compassed in that Cause: where when Syr Lancelot du Lake and hys fellow Tristram saw Chinon, that at their departure from England they left foolish in their friends, & his fathers house, miraculously transformed to a valiant Knight, and so luckily there arriued, for their reliefe: no maruaile if with admiration, they woondering wittes were drawne into a labyrinth of such deepe conceites, how this might come to passe, that being amazed as were those stone turned people, which ga-

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of Chinon of England.

zing vpon Gorgons heade, could hardly beleue in their mindes, what was so liuely presented to their eyes, till Chinon perceiuing their passion, gins thus to waken them from their drowlie and sluggish dreame.

Fellowes in Armes (quoth hee) the very reporte of whose valour hath from the heauy weight of obscure follie, rowled my deade dropping thoughtes to the liuely remembrance of a higher mounting mind, not happier shall you be in this your release, than I in bringing you reliefe; in that the succession of after growing ages, shall eternize my name for the opening of this worse than hellish mouth, and for the vanquishing of that more than miraculous Monster, for that by the one I againe restored to the world two such valiant Knights: and by the other, rid them of a pestilent plague.

Stand not in a maze, for I am the man that lately you left in a world of follie, but now by the power of poudent heauen, raised from that deiection. At last Lancelot (ouerclouded with ioy to see him thus fortunate, that whilome was so foolish) regrettes his good hap with many ioyfull wordes, such as commonlie passe betwixt long parted friends at their vnerpected meeting, and then sir Tristram likewise salutes hys honorable aduenture, with the many great thanks and good wishes of like future good fortune: then sir Triamore for that he himselfe altogether vnacquainted with Chinon, although hee had often heard hys friends and then followers in Armes, with mickle griefe to relate the wofull case wherein they left such a Prince, as there they named in England: yet hee begins to enquire of sir Lancelot the whole passed story of hys friends estate, who with ioy repea-

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ains certesse him in euery point according to his at-
king, which when sir Triamore vnderstode that he
was a knight of comely carriage and courteous de-
meanor, he forthwith with many gentle greetings
and more thanks to heauen and him for their happy
deliuerie, bowed vnto him all the honor of his ac-
tions: Who long professing kindly friendshippe
and dutifull seruice, to deserue this more then com-
mon curtesie, they were presented with a troope of
Fairies; amongst whom was Oberon the King,
who especially choosing Chinon from the rest, began
with many wordes of wonder to commend his Che-
ualry, for that last being his first Combate, he had so
valiantly behaved himself, as had all the chiefe choise
of powerfull Chyssenborne stroue with themselves
to haue exceeded his worth, their Forces all ioynd in
one, in respect of him had bene none: And then tur-
ning to the rest of the Knights, tolde them that the
Monster by whose deuile they were there deceaued,
was no other than himselfe, who for the desire he had
to approue the powerte of this new come Knight,
vnderooke that shap, in requittall of which wrong
he had prouided a costly sword, which by his Art was
fastned within the close binding body of a strong
Rooke, and he of them that should stoutly pull it out,
should for his paines haue a Jewell of rich price:
which sword was artificially framed for Julius Caesar,
by the cunning craft of a mighty Magitian, inhabi-
ting within the desolate places of those darke vallies,
and for that it so pleased the great Director of all
mens dealings, that that worke should come to
naught, for that the valiant Roman was before the
perfection thereof vnluckily slaine in the Senate, he
had closely reserved it to another vse: But who that
should be of all them foure, of which by necessity
needs

of Chinon of England.

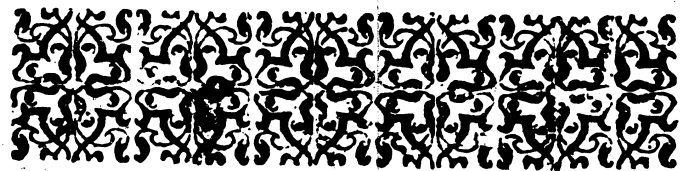
needs bee one) that as yet was not knowne to him-
selfe, and then leading them through the darke shades
of many light lacking vaultes, shewing them the sea-
crets of his close couched Kingdome, bound vp with
in the bowels of the earth: whether when they were
a little descended, they might partly see armies of ma-
ny little Glucs come posting towards him, as speciall
attendants on his traine, whose busie fingers would
gladly haue bene pinching they wearie legges: for
higher they coulde not reach: but that forbidden by
the great charge of their commaunding King, they
durst not aduantage it againe,

Thus after their long walke in those close kept
countrie, hee brought them at length into a breade
vale, in midst whereof was grauen by a mighty rag-
ged Rooke, wherein was a faire fashioned sword cu-
riously contriued of many sundry mettals, which
should come by some or other meanes to haue bene
stroken therinto, where this fairie King tolde them
they were all to approue their forces at the pulling of
it, and he whose lot it should be to win it, for his paines
should alwaies weare it, whose temperature was so
good as would clearely cut a sunder what euer, stone,
mettall, or any harder object was opposed against it,
the vertue this, that whosoever wore it should neuer
be assailed by base crabbiting of unie the doctifull An-
chanter.

And thus with many wordes extolling the excellen-
cie of the thing, and promising good fortune to them
whosoever should attaine it. Hee first appoints Syr
Lancelot, who as greedie of this goodly weapon, as a
hungrie hawke of her pray, stoutly steps forth, and
laying hold of the sword with a maine force, offering
to vnsheath it, could nothing at all remoue it. The
next was sir Tristram, and he also offering to vse his

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endeavour therein was also at the first expelled: Next him steps Triamore, but his force as feeble as the rest let stand till that for which they also stroue: till Chinon taking sure hold upon the hilt, with one hand did more than they were able to effect with all their power: which when he had done, brandishing it about his head, as promising therewith to worke some extraordinary wonders, he straight waies by Oborams direction was presented with a rich Armour, and all necessarie furniture thereunto belonging, bozne by two little Clues, which he straight put on, and then girding himselfe with his new got sword, makes all possible speede to returne as one longing to approue what those rich habiliments did promise: to whome Oboram after a long oration of much prefiguring valour and valiant exploitcs by him to bee performed, with many offered assurances of what readie helpe rested in his power to performe, whereof quoth he thou shalt ere long stand in need: giues him further, a faire shield, composed by the cunning of a famous Merchant: wherein was in rich mettall curiously engrauen a statelie flintie Rocke, shiuered in peeces by the power of a naked man, vnder which in letters of gold was ingrauen this posse, *Nihil difficile*, & appointing him a Page of his owne bringing vp, a little ill fauored Clutish Dwarfie, but trusty at all aduises, commits him to the keeping of good Quozing fortune, till time and his necessity shall againe bring them together.



How

of Chinon of England.



CHAP. V.

How *Chinon* and *Triamore* redeemed *Celestina* from the Soldan of *Babylon*, after a most strange maner, with other Noble achievements that they performed in the same exploit.



Thus in a sodaine trance they being back againe conueyed to the place whence he first led them: where they then beginne to acquaint him with all the manner of their triumph in France, the losse of their Lady, the victorie of the Bagan, & what els ill hap had betyded them since they departed from the King of Frances Court, which tragick tale so whetted the longing lust of this pearcelles Prince, to reuenge the iniuries of these his so happy met mates, as that he straight gins to deuise how he might best worke some speedy meanes for her deliuerie, that nowe was closelie pent vp in delights, farre more worse vnto her than darke Dungeons: which

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which with many hammering plots : At length hee thus purposed to bring to passe.

Thou Triamore quoth hee, for that by thy default this Lady so unluckely lost her libertie, shalt venture with me thus to recover her, and these my friends shall in a nother sort employ themselves, as I will direct them: then seeing thy yeares are yet young, thy face loucly, and euery well fashioned part of thy body fit to further our intent, thou shalt take vpon thee the shape of some inchantress, I & my dwarffe trimmed vp in other apparrell will attend vpon thee as diligent servants which thou shalt pretend thou employest in such secret affairs, as none saue such simple slaues, will abide to beare: where thou shalt undertake to procure the likeing of faire Celestina, to affect him which for that no welcommer newes can come to his belov'd minde, than the sound of such service, he will easily condescend to doe any thing that thou shalt direct him to: which being done, leaue the rest to my disposition, and in the meane time these my ancient friends shall whilst we worke within, attende here without, and the next night when the Queene of shades gins in her quiet rule to dimme the glimring show of lesser lights, in some secret place, that thou (for that the best cannot direct vs in this cuntry) shalt appoint to attend our coming: where for the next dayes arise we will worke a deede of such worth, as shall eternize our honour in all ages, and make vnbayne Children hereafter to repeat what exceeding valour, we for our Christian COUNTRY (overloaden with the hateful burden of barbarous Pagans) performed, and then instructing them thoroughly in euery point of his purpose, and carefully prouiding to take away euery obstacle of aduerser suspicion, that might any waies be a hindrance to their well intended purpose,

of Chinon of England.

pose, they meeting all againe on their sturdie steeds rides forth, till they came neare to the place where the Pagan with all his Arme lay, and there in the same place wherby treason they were surpris'd, Stailes Lance or and Tristram in a thicke Castell, covered ouer with thicke leaued hollie, where they might easily shrowd themselves from the sight of all passengers: whilst Chinon, Triamore, & hys Dwarffe sets boldly forward to execute the fore plotted purpose: who coming into the Campe, made it straight knowne to some of the Soldans nearest attendantes what they were: Triamore pretending himselfe to be (as afore we told) an Inchauntresse, that was come from far, to further the loue of the great Soldan to faire Celestina: which newes when it was told him, sounded no lesse pleasant in hys eares than Ane Caesar at his Coronation: where charging them straight to be brought to hys presence, he gins to question with Triamore of his skill, posing him in the relation of kings past, as how, when, and where he first surpris'd that Lady: which Triamore so: that himselfe was an vnfortunate actor in that dolefull Tragedy could in euery point stily answer him: which the Pagan simply attributing to hys great skill, gins thanks to hys gods that in so good time had thither directed the skillfull Inchauntresse, by whose meanes he hoped not ere long to enioy hys new toyles loue: but also to performe such prodigious exploits, as should rebound to the eternal dishonour of all Christian Countries, and then begins to question with him about the recovery of his loue.

Triamore with a fine forged tale, gins tell him that if he would but practise such meanes as he should appoint, he would so Inchaunt the louely minde of that fayre Christian Princess to affect hym, as mauer al

The famous Historie

the mallice of whatsoeuer opposing power, she should forsake father and friends, kinfolks and Countrie, & only bind herselfe to farrie with him.

Which soule pleasing sound, did ring such swete musicke in his rude eares, as that he with all speede willed her but to determine what was herein to be done, and he with as much expedition would fully effect, if it were to the losse euen of halfe his Kingdome.

Then quoth Triamore, this night hath Cynthia filled fullie by her emptie boznes, whose sauozable aspects will fitly further our purpose: When therefore the silent night hath shut the eyes of euery watchfull creature, thou, thy loue, and my selfe, must by some such meanes as thou shalt best appoint, be conueyed secretly from the Campe into the bosome of a neere bordering wood, where wee may clearly see all the course of the ceasles frames of neuer resting heauen: where I with my inuocations, and sozcerous Magick spels, will so Inchaunt the minde of thy beauteous loue, as hence forth shee shall neuer affect any other saue thy selfe, and then pretending to prepare such necessarie furniture as should fit her purpose, she desired that her selfe and her seruants might a while be removed into some secret place, where they might prouide all thinges fit for their purpose, and where they might haue some speech with the Damsell, which was speedily done: for a secret seruant nerely belonging to the Soldan, was appointed to direct them: where by the miselues they had free talk with faire Cestina: to whome Triamore begins to relate all that had happened them since their insozcerous departure, with the happie aduenture of Chinon for their deliuerie, and what els had befallen them, in that trauel: and then comforts her with the hope of escape, by they thus plotted.

of Chinon of England.

plotted purpose: where long they were repeating their overpassed paines and reioycing in their hoped happines, till time approached of their departure: When the Soldan not vnmindefull of this matter, sent to the Sozcerer to see if all thinges were readie for their purpose: which affirmed that shee was ordering prouided.

At last the latest houre is come, when he calling together all the chieft of his Captaines, & acquaints them with the cause, which tended so much to the furtherance of his desire, & intreating the most of them that they would walke with him out into the next adjoining wood to be witnesses of this work: to whom they willingly condescended, & then gathering themselves together, after the watch was set, they secretly departed: where the Soldan still thinking on the inioyning of his loue, neuer dreamt of any pretended treason that might thereby insue, but greedily catching like a solith fish at the golden baite, they still followed on they way, till they were come to the place where Lanceot and Tristram lay hid: where Chinon casting off his disfiguring maske, begins now to shew himselfe in his owne likeness, and with a watch word calling for his fellows, brauely sets upon the se their enemies: where in short time they had sent to hell all the rest, saue the Soldan himselfe, and taking him prisoner, carries him away bounde: When Triamore now once againe reuelling in the treasury of his loue: gins with all humble submission, attribute to the honour of Chinon all the fore passed proofe of this their fortunate seruice which they had performed.

But Cestina that nowe like the Thracian Damsell returned with the Lorde of her loue from the dismall Gates of Hell, begins with the

The famous Historie

teares of true ioy to prostrate her selfe at his honorable feete, whose force had againe restored her from the tedious slaerie of leathsome captiuitie, to the pleasant presence of life feeding libertie, vowing devoted seruice for this her second life: But Chiron disdainyng that the soule faced earth shoulde enioy so much as a touch of her heauenly betw, with gentle intreatie rayles her vp, and thus replied to her suppliant speech.

Fairer quoth he than is the common composition of earthly creatures, and therfore of more worth than millions, if I haue ought done in this that hath bred thy content, it is no more than belongeth the dutie of my degree: When doe not thus attribute more honour for my meede, than is due by deserts to my deed: more is thy smile towards the reward of a well deserving weyke, than the rich rewards of many millions of others bowes, more pleasant is the sight of an hours sunne, than the show of twenty shadowed daies: but thy sight exceeding the brightest shining sunne, that day is at the mid daies height the pearcing beames of euery bright eyes sight, more welcome to vs, than day to the wearie watch, or the repose of a quiet Zune to a tyred traualler, gracest our paines with thy presence. More worth is his weyke that rises in the rich bowels of the gold growne earth, than hee that dredges in the bottome of a dunghill ditch, and yet the last labor is more than the first: but that the subiect exceeding in worth, exceeds the reward of his work more than the traualle graces the thing: but the worth of the subiect dignifies the desert of the deede, whereby our credit by thee is maintayned, and not thy matchles selfe by our might magnified.

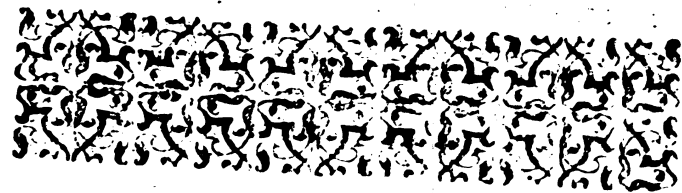
Take on hym that for thy loue aduentured his life, and the rewarde of my paynes is this, that they rebound

of Chiron of England.

bound to thy pleasure, and for thee Triamore, as thou againe thou hast thy hearts content, remember the estate of thy old father as thou toldest mee, is compassed within the circle of powder besedged walles, still expecting the speedy help of his forward friends: but yet hath this nights worke so weakened hys foes, as that there is no doubt of further danger.

By this with such like chat had they chased a waite the sable show of this silent night, and next the sunne gins with cheareful countenance to looke vpon the honorable actes of their thise prayse worthy exploits, when by this time they were wandred farre from the place where they first gaue the onset to atchieue this honour: where Chiron calling to him his two countrymen, giues this carefull charge,

You two quoth he whose honors accents is euerie where blazed for your valours, shal henceforth leaue these wandring wayes, and returne with me into our Countrie: where I will present to my longing Father this Dagan Prince, the first fruits of my Maiden manhood, doing all my humble dutie to hys honorable age: but first in safety let vs conuey these fayre friends to their fathers Court, and let them there safe from further sorrows at home, that haue sustained the hard brunt of fell misfortune abroad, where may as many pleasures attend them there in peace, as honorable accidents happen to me in warre.





CHAP. VI.

Of *Chinon* returne into England, accompa-
nied with Sir *Lancelot* and Sir *Tristram*,
with their most honorable entertainment
there.



After that hee had thus aduentured
for the reconerie of beauteous *Celestina* from the handes of the *Sol-
dan*, that had traitterously tane her
away from *Pyrrhus* Triamore, & sent
them home to her fathers Court to
solemnize their marriage. *Lancelot*, *Tristram*, and
himselfe, take the direct way that led them home in-
to their own country, that there they might in quiet
tell those thinges with pleasure amongst their
friendes, which they had in trouble perforced with
labours amongst their foes: In which iourne no oc-
casion of further let encountered them any more, but
as fast as with ordinary traailers, they peaceable
passe over their iourne, till they came home into
Cornwall to *Carle Cadors* Court, that was not a
little glad to see the returne of his sonne, with good
hap to answer the long expectation of his faile hope,
h:

he entertaines them with such curte sie, as common-
ly passe betwixt lost friends, at theyr vnacquainted
meetings.

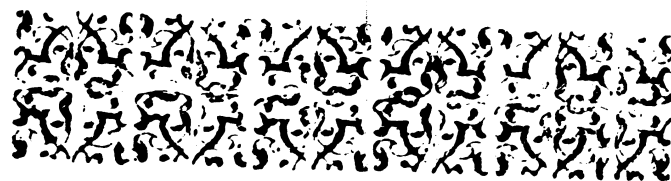
Chinon discoursing to his old father the storie of
their traualles whose very wordes breeds new life
in the decayed sinnoles of his old limmes: as doeth
the approaching sunne cherrish the decayed winter
woode strength of the earths increase. *Lancelot* hee
presents to his lone the Trophies of his victorie,
with many perswasions how for her loue hee had ad-
uentured his life in winning those princely Prizes,
the chiefe wherof (whose worth exceeded all except
herselfe) he had bounteously bestowed vpon Sir *Tri-
amore*, *Tristram*. he followes on his friends with the
praises of them both: first how by their meanes the
Lady was atchaied: then how by *Chinon*'s deuise she
was secondly attained, with all the whole history of
their former fortunes: where what ioy was general-
ly receaued, as well of the King himselfe, and her,
that whole life still lasts in the euerting acts of suc-
ceeding ages, famouled as much for the renowne
of his round table, as *Alcides* for his twelue labors,
Iason for his iourne to *Calcos*, or the *Graikes* for
their triumphes at *Troy*. Hee now in the winter of
his waning age, affecting to heare that now of others
which before in his youth he had effected the like him-
selfe, welcomes home all these warlike wanderers,
that had bene so long abroad, writing in the Regis-
ters of other realmes the courage of their own coun-
try: as also the people inhabitants of this pappy King-
dome, that ioyed to see their neighboring lands dispos-
led of such riche rewarde as was brought home by
their countreymen. Thus when euery man had filled
his eares with the report, *Arthur* willing also to fur-
ther the courage of this young Cavalier, summons a
solemn

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solemne meeting of all the Nobles and Peeres of his country to his Court: where when at the time appointed all were gathered together, the King at a Royall banquet, gins to declare the cause of this their calling together, that themselves should see how Princely he had, and would still pay the rewards of such deserts, as by the adventures of their young countryman Chiron had bene prosperously performed, and then with Epithites accents of honour, telling the victorious tale of his fight, as Aeneas the Tragick Heroe of their fight. he concludes his speech with the performance of his promise, which was the soleme orders he commonly bled at the instalment of any of his knights, and dubbing him, therewithall appoints him his place at the Table: where a while he remained, as well to comfort the decaying date of his Fathers yeares: whome wrestling age had almost now layed along in his graue, and as the Marigold that neuer escapeth her flowers but against the sunne: so he neuer opened his age dimmed eyes to beholde the chearefull countenance of any creature save his son Chiron, and like the melancholly Turtle when her mate is from her sight: so fares it with this aged Carle, that neuer sleepes but dreames of his Sonne, neuer is well waking when he sees him not, & neuer contented with any sounds if he heare him not: as also the intire affection of his King and Captaine Arthur of England, that enamored with his curtesie, was lost to leane his company, he was forced a while to refraine his affections, whose body thought it was malled in at home, yet was his minde wandring abroad: which the fates foreseeing, (as do the careful Parents prouide for their forwarde children) seeke meanes for their furtherance in that qualitie where so they are most inclined, loth that so many vertues should

of Chiron of England.

Should be cōp'd within the compasse of a little Hand, and not spread their branches abroad to the wide world, carefully contriue a meane to conuaye him away.



CHAP. VII.

How Chiron was by the Fairies conuaid into Egypt.



Thus hee spending the prime of his daies at home in ballance, letting ruste away his well tempered Armour, that warres before had scoured, lying one day vpon a pleasant ouerspread bank, vnder the covert of a nature framed Canopie, bound together with the bowes of sweet smelling roses: vpon whose pleasant sprays late the seuerall sorts of musicke making birds, that with their naturall notes, calles on inchaunting sleep to possesse the quiet organs of his body with all pleasing rest, in the midst of a sweet slumber, suddenly appears to the view of his drowsie thoughts, two aerie bodied fiery creatures as we call Fairies, whome some imagine

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imagine to be those spirites that fell downe vpon the earth, and since that time inhabit the severall corners thereof; sometimes deluding mens senses with the shewes of that they are not: other, sometimes showing themselves in the semblances they commonly accustomed to put on, dancing roundelays euer the pleasant meades, clearing the secrete corners of euery shade: in which sort it should seeme they found this knight, to whom they gan the we a rich embroidered armour, curiously carved and richly set with all manner of precious stenes, and a faire sword with all the formall furniture thereunto belonging, faire passing that which before he had pulled out of the Rocke, and therewithall giues sed his fancie, that they nourished his imagination in the perfectest ioye of all natural delight, with the shew of a faire Virgin, whose rare countenance promised more than her outward colour of attire, for that meane were her weeds, such as commonly we read of the Arcadian shepherdes, whose perfects haue put to silence so many pens in labouring to portraitt their picture. But her selfe more than a mortall Maid, looked vpon with the impartial censure of a iudging eye, might draw into an endlessse Labour path, the labouring thought of an improving wit, striving with it selfe to picture forth her worth. Where a while we must leaue him in a mison-like spending his time in this sweet speculation, and for a time talke of this rare sight here shewed him in his sleep.

This Ladie was daughter to an ancient Lord, named Bellurino, cheif Counsellor to a King then King of Egypt, and was there owned by becouch of a noble man named Demetrius, who for that he saw by no way he could compass her desire, neither by amorous deuances of himselfe, nor by the assistance of his friends, nor ear-

of Chiron of England.

nest soliciting desires of his daim intermitted gifts could preuaile to drawe towards him the dutye of her love, he determining by another waile ether to win her to himselfe, or to loose her out of conceit with all other, ~~thereby~~ ~~with~~ ~~an~~ ~~old~~ ~~witch~~, whose name was Europa, who byed by him, hammered about to work some meane how she might change the settled affections of her maid as she minde, somewhat to incline themselves to his intent: which when by no means she could bring about, she straight tooks a way to remove her quite from all companie, to live on the unpeopled solitudes among hyte beasts, and to that ende aiming her actions, by means of an ayrie spirit attendant vpon her, suddenly conveyed her from the Courtly presence farre off to an unfrequented Plaine, situate by the River Nilus, where there perceluing her selfe displaced, but seeing no reason of her remove, straitwaies begins to consider with herselfe what luckles occasion might thus crosse her in her hopefull course, and when after long search in the selfe known records of her inward conscience, she could finde no readie reason, how her offences should any waies haue procured so great a punishment, as this unnatural diuorse, not onely from the comfort of her kindred, but all other pleasures, thus with all humble dutie alwaies honours her superiors, & with rarefull curtesie intrusted her inferior, being ever held as the image of gods beneuolence. And thus finding herselfe as cleare from those vngovernable tempting times, that drawe downe the headle willy of all iudging Gods to marple with such seuerer plagues to punish the offences of men, shedding manie showres of anther waters, whose power were able to haue downe pittie from the steely hearts of hal-broken fairies, she bet downe by the side of that silver stramine,

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that with his sauer beads, still sends forth supplie to
the alluring sea, and tuning her voice to the bubbling
musick of his gliding course, & to the dashing notes of
sundry fishes, that like the dancing Dolphins at the
sweete sound of Arions Pipe gather themselves to-
gether.

She sings this Dittie.

Ye free borne people from all inthralling bands,
That we poore soules perforce are subiect to:
You glide with pleasure ore these golden sands,
And feelles no hope of weale, nor hap of woe.
Time, fortune, foes, nor any other power,
Changes, casts downe, or turnes your sweet to fower:
But we whome nature wrought vnto the best,
Triumphant time still tosses vp and downe:
And they whome former fortune whilome blest,
Crue!l misfortune with a suddaine frowne:
Casts from a throane where sur'ly we seeme to dwell,
To worse, woes than death, dispaire, or hell.

Thus whilest with this song she sought to please
her sorrow sodainly this wretched woman, by whose
meanes she was brought thither,) carried through
the empty aires in sterie flaming aires, such as was
that feared scorching Medea, amidst the sable shadows
of the silent night, overroode so many tops of hills to
finde those heabes, that in the age was no limmes of
a bloodles man, calls backe fresh spring to keep againe
his residence in that body: thus presenting her selfe
vnto her in the accustomed shape at other times she
usually shewed her selfe: begins at her first entrance
to

of Chinon of England.

to discusse vnto her the manner of translation from
her father and friends vnto these peoples plains,
confessing her selfe both to be Autho: and ado: of this
direfull deuil: where quoth she for the coy coun-
tances that so oft thou hast repayed to the pittie men-
uing perswasions of him, that so; thy lone well nie-
ce I, weares out in woe, the daye and watches with
terrible torment: the night, that in euery sentence
he speaks, so oft cites thee by thy proper name, and
himselfe with bare conceit that hee hath, thee whom
by consent he rightly should haue had, pines awaie
poore soule in the phisicke fits of a passionate louer. In
whose reuenge quoth she I haue here seated thee by
thy selfe, far from the rest of men, where desolati-
on shall here teach thee to tell thy selfe that thou art
now worse than wilde beasts, that before enemye
of thy selfe better than faire framed men: where
quoth she, till thou canst call backe thy prauise persua-
sing thought, to pittie his case that so; he spends his
life in such care, here shalt thou haue thy abode, and
be as far from any consolation of others, as thou art
from comfort of him, and so sodainly leaving her
againe to her selfe she departed.

At which abrupt Relation, the maids staid at the
first dismayed: yet at length consideres somewhat
more her conceit, in that she knew the meanes of her
remount, and that last after she had long remained
there in that people wanting world, to rescue the oc-
casion of her time, and the cure of dolence, she be take
her selfe to careful keeping of some simple natured
shepe, whereof that place was store, of whose woolle
she now begins to spinne her selfe some homely attire,
that was wont to be robes in the richest array that na-
ture and Arte could afford, and in the meane time, the
weary workes preventing all occasions of further
mischance

The knowns Historie

misfortune, that might els in the continuance of time
have crossed theyr intent; who for as much as to distrust
her wofull Father: who now destitute of all his chil-
dren, his daughter the hope of comfort to his decrep-
ing age, who having three goodly sonnes, whose na-
ture had every way furnished with gifts fitting their
degrees, whose names were Michael, Terpander,
and Theonias: all these had he employed in the pursuit
of their sister; when as his foes taking the advantage
of their time, Perolus that was also a Counsellor,
gins secretly to informe the King of certain treasons
pretended to his life and land; by Bellarian father to
thys new Mepheardelle, of whom before wee tolde
you: to the end that having furnished him of the
Kinges favour, himselfe might the easier effect what
occasion he should be offered, and the poore father
left destitute of all meanes to further his sonnes af-
fares: which the King at the first was loth to believe,
both for that he had had so long trespall of the faithful
service old Bellarian had alwaies performed, as also
that he supposed that such subtilties could not harbour
in a silver coloured heart: for that quoth he Serpents
alwaies lurke in young grasse tuftes, & not in win-
ter withered grasse, age abolishes deceipts, as it a-
bandons baime delights, & as the bodie waxes weak,
by so much more doth the minde waxe strong, as be-
ing more freed from all the intemperate passions in youth
age, whereunto the vain pleasures of this world
would still intise him to in his youth: whereupon
the other replyed so replyed with great indigni-
ment, shewing straight to the King the intermission
of letters that so long had passed to and fro betweene Bel-
liarian and many of his old friends, for the effecting
of their treasons, to which he had so cunningly
counter-

of Chinon of England.

counterfitted the oldmans hand, as if himselfe had
substantially set it done, and the better to preveue
ry generall circumstance of this his surmised tale, he
presently produces two or three perjured compani-
ons, who for that purpose hee had suborned: whose
substantiall tale took such effect, and so farre incensed
the King, that in all haste sending for the old guiltlesse
soule. who was so farre from pretending this ill, that
notwithstanding all the cross occasions that so un-
luckely had hapned unto him, he spends all his time
intending still naught but his Soueraignes good:
where when hee came, the King breaking forth into
impatience, begins with traitterous names to up-
braide him, who God knowes was so farre from in-
venting it, that he studied nothing more than the pre-
venting it: and then enripping unto him the forged
treason, shewing him the counterfet letters signed by
his own hand, the severall circumstances proved by
such sufficient witnesses, as there pretended them-
selves to be, impatient of excuse, and therefore utter-
ly denying to heare his further answer, still urged by
the envious invented persuasions of his subtil ene-
mie, gins thus to bewray his hatred.

Experience quoth he hath taught us, and the dayly
proofe of still present time offers occasions to our eyes
of new examples, how in brute beasts the continuance
of long time growndes perfect love, as the silly dogge
that brought up at his Masters trencher, in his kinde
remembers his civill, and humane nature lends him
liberty of life, induceth himselfe still in all duty to re-
quite it, and shall then man their reasonable ruler, be-
lieve that these beastly things, by him so ruled
herbs, trees, and other beaustable creatures increasing
from the earth, to them that with care manure their
roots, & give their beausts render fruit for a reward,
the

the brasse they in their sundrie kindes requites their owners cost: as one with his skinne, another with his flacc; one with his huffe, and another with his horne; one with his labour, and another with his leu; and shall not then be whome God hath made as Father of all these creatures exceede them in his reasonable raign, that subiect themselves reasonles to be ruled. Since first I came to sway the beaute scepter of this great kingdome, and toke into my hands the tuition of so many people as inhabite these spacious plaines of wide west girt, haue nourished thee euen in my bosome: nearest haue I kept thee to my selfe, because I would draw thy affection from all other, & haste thou now with thy vngratefull snake, Kinged him in the brest, that so carefully sought to preserve thee in his bosome.

Can it be that vnder the reuerend shew of such honourable age, should rest the vnderseued thoughtes of vnreuerent reuenging rage. Is there founde foule broode in faire gold, bad shewes on good substances, & can there be such hatred in sure hearts? I, I, I see the sayest former shine hath his sodaine shewer the best blossom is oft times some blacked & the truest friend proues oft the most trecherous foe: But as no man commendeth the sunne morning, nor the shewie night, the frustrate hope of his fruite, for the bad blacked hnd: so let every man especially condemne the soules secret friende, when her turnes to a soe seerching foe: which simile I to thy selfe must now applie: that vnder the faire shew of friendship, hast secretly gone about to ouerturne my estate, & bring this welgoverned common weale to a ruinous decayed wycke, which fault is so apparant, both by thine owne hand sufficiently set forth, as also confirmed by the Testament of others: as that my patience, scarce sustein-

ing it selfe within the bounds of euill behaviour, cannot abide to heare any excuse, and therefore will I against thee pronounce this heauie doome for thy ill deserving deedes, the punishment of death were a pleasure to thee, so that so I should ease thee of a great deale of sorrow, if thou shouldst still continue in thy best state thou wert likely to sustaine, and therefore from henceforth like a cursed creature, shalt thou wander in the world and eate the bitter bread of banishment in a soyraine soyle, that whilome liuedst so sweetly in thine owne naturall seat, and so for euer I banish thee from the compasse of this kingdome, to burie thy siluer haire in sorrow, that haddest such hope to harbour them in their graue with ioy.

At which wordes the olde man not able to speake for the abundance of teares that stopped by the way of his wordes, was forced to leaue him without further replie and hopeles of any helpe, patiently to departe. By this time had the king (more to punish his supposed amis,) seized vpon all his goods, to the ende he might leaue him no succour to saue himselfe abroad: which when he saw, sorrowfully sighing to himselfe, desperately departes away without any further following the king, for the repeale of this his punishment, and straight way betakes himselfe to his traualle: which when Perofus perceaued how they now had brought euery thing euen to the bent of their own bow, gins glorie to themselves in their likely prosperitie, purchased by the hard hap of an others aduersitie: but on a sodaine Europa, the witch by whose counsell all this trecherie was contriued, looking further into the matter what was likelic to follow: by these meanes perceaued in the speculative glasse, how that the rightfull reuenging gods had by many means determined her release: as first by Chinon, whom for

that purpose they had brought out of England: then by her brethren, who had undertaken to search all the world for their sister, and lastly by her father, whose guiltles banishment could not long be concealed, the being called home to his former place, would be such such meanes for her recoverie, as their power could hardly prevent, and therefore to escape these ensuing ills he thus determined to deale. The maide who though she was from thence far remote, and in a place whether lay no ordinarie passage: yet foreseeing how at length that all would hit vpon that way, incloses by her wicked workes this faire Damsell within the ruine of an olde Rocke hard by the river side, vpon whose bankes before she made her abode: where accompanied with shadowes of naturall creatures, hauing faire womanly faces like her selfe, that seemed to outward sence of the far beholders, to make her merrie with melodious musicke, but to her selfe she found it far contrarie, prouiding nothing els but a harsh discord of misliking sounds: which outward semblance was for this purpose by them prouided, that it might somewhat satisfie any idle beholder, to see that her prison was rather a pleasure, than any such paine as should moue the mindes of men to venture any thing for her release: where poore soule she now copt vp in a Cage that before tooke her pleasure vpon these spacious plaines, like to the beguiled bird that vnwares falling into the fowlers gin, is now enraged by in a little compasse, that whilome was wont to play vpon the broad branches of euery springing plant.

How



CHAP. VIII.

How *Bessarian* her father was by the Witch turned into the likenes of a Beare, and how hee met with his sonnes in that shape.



THEY hauing determined of her, they straight waies begin to strue with themselves how they might deuise some drift to remove the feare that they had of her fathers rising againe to his former state, which by the meanes of Europa the Witch they thus contriued.

She calling to counsaile her attendant spirits; by whose meanes she brought to passe all this matter, gins giue them severally in charge to vse their Artes in plaging of this poore man, which they should so surely effect, as no hope should be left of any more comfort to come vnto him; where beating together their hell bred braines, they thus concluded with themselves, that they would chaunge hym from the shape of a man, into the body of an vgly Beare,

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and so let him die a beast that was bozne a man, and further yet, to aggravate hys woes, which might notwithstanding this enuie haue an end, they intended in his disguise to hasten on hys death, least by some crossing occasions, as oftentimes are usually scene unexpectedly fall out for the release of Magicke bandes, which they thus determined when they had wrought their willes in his transformation, about his necke they hang a scroule, wherein were written two verses which were these.

He whose good hap shall kill this beare,
That man shall haue his hearts desire.

Thinking by this meanes the better to drawe on euery mans might, to the effecting of their former plotted purpose, for that all men by a naturall instinct are greedy to get any hope of pursuing their purposes, though oft times they doe it with the danger of the yllues: where the oldman turned after this manner, wanders through the woods, clogged with the burden of selfe feeling sorrow, and in displaye of reliefe, settles himselfe to that thraldome without hope of release. Many were the miseries in this shape hee sustained, as the many hungry dayes that in spite of himselfe he was forced to spend, so that his stomacke was not used to feede vpon such filthie carion, as those beasts accustomedly deuoure, the raw restless nights without couert, hee must now continue, the want of his friends, and feare of hys foes, with a countlesse company of moze griefes than the capacitie of man can conceaue was coneyned in him, being then as a beast, sauing that still he retained the vse of his reasonable soule, which they by no meanes could make to miserie. In the meane time the Witch now in the

of Chinon of England.

midst of her busines, seeing in her speculatiue Glasse (wherein she usually saw what accident soeuer was likely to happen) the approach of her Bxethren, who (by tracing vp and downe in the World) were some of them come nere (at vnwares) to the place where she was; posted her selfe with all speed, the better to prosper her purpose, and with violence inforced a spirit (one of her owne Attendants) to vse the organs of her bodie, to an ende which her selfe had deuised: that was, to send sundrie wayes her Bxethren, who were like seperally to come thither where now their Sister did sojourn.

And by that time this Hag had brought this purpose to passe, Nicholas her eldest Bxether (that now almost wearied with walking vp and downe among the high desolate Hills) had framed his iourney towards that Riuer, the which with his swelling waters moystens once euerie yere those pleasant Egyptian Plaines, to refresh his tyred limmes in the coole streames of that pleasant Current, bathing his sweet bodie in those refreshing Springs; suddenly in the midst of a clowen Rocks he espies sitting a companie of faire Creatures, whereof one (exceeding all lyke the Ventralls amidst the naked troupes of her attendant Simps) hee quickly startes vp and hies to the place where he supposed they should be: to which as hee came nearer, hee might perceauie the middelmast Ladie that so farre exceeded the rest, to be Calistopem his Sister, for whom he had made such search: when in an extasie of ioye, standing still as not able at the first to utter the sudden mirth of his minde, the enuious Stone closes his sides and shuts them al from his sight. At which sudden accident, his senses as farre cast downe as before they mounted themselves with the hope of recovering his Sister, gins with himselfe

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denise what this matter might meane, till from the Rocks hee heard one pitifully call him by his owne name; which at length he perceived to be the voice of his Sister whom before he had seene: and answering againe to her sudden call, ginnes demaund by what meanes he might come vnto her: To whom straight she answers, that there was no passage to that place: for that by the wicked worke of an enuious Inchantresse, she was ther so surely inclosed, as neither force of man, edge of weapon, violence of fire, nor any other earthly meanes whatsoever the World could afford was able to auail, except himselfe would adventure one thing for her deliuerance. And then she coniures him by the dutie he ought to his Father, the loue to her his Sister, and the care of preserving their kindred, that he should undertake this Adventure: which he with more earnest desire offers to do, than she could with her former reasons perswade him to, desiring her to tell him his talke, that he might slip no time, but in al hast hie him to the performance of this thing, which was like so highly to pleasure th^e both, her with comfort, and him with content. To whom she thus begins to unfold her intent.

Under (quoth she) that toplesse Hill which we call by the name of Taurus, that with his length gyrdels in the wyde Continent of flowing Asia, vnder the roote of an euerlasting Lilly, stands there a Tiall full of Virgins teares, that encountred with the like crosse as I am now (poore Soule) in, and before her release dyed there for sorrow: to whose eternall memorie, against the infectiue rage of this ouer ruling power, the Fates haue there reserued that powerfull Potion, whose Vertue is to breake the strongest inchaunted Bands; and so shee that by them was thus bound while shee liued, haue the Gods ordained as an Argument

of Chiron of England.

Argument to binde them now she is dead. But the still working wits of these wicked wretches, hatching nothing but harme, intending nothing but what is ill, and perfourming nothing but that which tends to our plague, haue to prevent that which is thus provided, strongly garded the ground where thys Tiall standeth, with the power of a sight killing Serpent, such as we call a Cockatrice, against whom no power is able to preuaile.

At which words, Terpander breaking her from his further discourse, ginnes to perswade his sister a litle with patience, and ere long hee doubted not by his meanes to work her libertie. And thus like the greedy Grey-hound that suddenly sets out to follow the swift footed Hare, flies he to attaine his purpose, be- leauing as his sorrowfull Sister did, that there had been that vertue in the water, but it was onely the receipt of her deadly Enemy, that determined to make away all her Bretheren whose inducours were else likely to worke her release: and therefore (as before wee said) enforced her tung to tattle that which her minde did not meane, whereby shee might see the deaths in seeking to do her good.

Not long after Terpander had thus betaken himselfe to his iourne, with hope that her release from that place shoulde repay the desertes of his paines, comes to her the second brother, whose name was Micander, and hee as the first ioyfull to see the ende of his iourne, which was the sight of his sister, begins after the manner of newe met friendes to resalute her, and as he offered to haue kissed her hand for ioy of his good happe suddenly the Rocks shutting her from him, deuorres a sunder both their desires to resalute whose proffered kindnesse, she speaking from her prison, telles him with teares to inuener of her
inclosure

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inclosure, intreating him by all the true loue that nature woakes in the mindes of men, that he would undertake some meanes for her freedom: which he readier to offer than she willing to intopne, calls to his solentine bow all the Gods of Heauen and Guiders of Earth, that were it a greater toyle than to number the sands of the Shore, the dropes in the Sea, or the starres in the Skie, more heauie than the burden of Atlas, more toylsome than the Labours of Hercules, or more tedious than the Laborynth of Theseus, hee would with ease vndergoe it, with courage performe it, and with pleasure proceed in it: and therefore hastened her forward (poore Soule) to pronounce his harme.

Shee gins tell him, that in the Deserts of Arabia rests Orions Harpe, brought thether by the meanes of an Iachauuntresse, to release from the thraldome of such subiection as now I am in, a valorous Knight, whom another Magitian had there imprisoned: and sayling by some crosse occasion to perforce the purpose whereunto it was brought, there still remaines; but kept by a man-eating Canaball, hauing neither the forme of a man, nor the fashion of a beast, but compound of them both. Him (quoth shee) if thou canst overcome, and bring backe that well tuned Instrument, at whose stroakes the dauncing Dolphin delighted, beares on his backe wofull Orion from the furie of the fierce swelling seas, when by the Pirates he was cast among the waues. The sound whereof wilbe sufficient to vnder the doores of this diuelish deuice: for which deed thou shalt bee blessed, and I rewarded from this punishing prison. Which said, the forward yong Man, loath to lose time by standing on reply, gets speedily from the place and bies him to his labour.

After

of Chinon of England.

After whose departure, by chance (as did both the first) comes Theonas the yongest and last of these brethren, who at a sudden seeing his Sister there inclosed in the Roke, gins as did the other, to resalute her with such louing looks as accustomable passe betwixt longing friends at their first meeting; wher after manie words on both sides, Theonas wondering why she should sit so still in her seate, and not offer the like curtesie he intended to her, gins to draw nerer the place where she was, when on a sudden, the Roke (closing together) denies his nerer approach: at which, shee sorry within and he as sad without, gins both of them distill as manie amber teares from their cristall eyes, as might haue dissolved againe the craggie clifles of those pittiles Rokes. At length shee (as afore to the other two) gins tell him the manner of her life, and intreates his aid for her release, telling him of a perilous Iland that was sometime kept by a skilfull woman named the wise Erganea, where on an Altar in a Temple (there built vnto her name) lies a golden Booke, in which (quoth shee) is contained all the Enchauntments that Arte can afford, and their seuerall releases againe, kept by two Harpies (such were those monstrous birds with whom Alcides fought, and for his conflict with them was so great, it was accounted as one of the xii. Labours hee atchieued): thence if thou canst but fetch it away, it wil be the only meane to worke my release, and end thy long desires and tedious labour.

Whereto the yong man attentiuely harkening, as one that longed to eternise his name to succeeding posterities, for the performance of some such famous worke, makes small delay to proferute this busines, with comfortable promises of fairer dayes, chearing and comforting her mind, leaues her to the mercy of

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her

The famous Historie

her For, till his happie returne make her moze fortunate.

These severall Adventures by her imposed on her Bretheren, had this Witch before provided, only for a meane to destroy all them that should in this labour indeuour themselves, and perforce made her tongue the unwilling Instrument to incite them to this ill: who otherwise intended their indeuours onely for her good.



CHAP. IX.

How *Chinon* came to the *Rocke* where the *Ladie* was inchaunted, and what happened thereof.



In this time the *Fayries* (by whose meanes *Chinon* was conueighed out of *England*) had brought hym to the place, whers in the *Wision* whilest he lay asleepe vnder the *Arbour* in *England*, they shewed him the faire *Shepherdelle*, and had taken their leaue, telling him, how (by his meanes) that *Ladie* (now in *Captiuitie*) was to bee released: but how manie dangers hee must first passe through, lest him there to folow his farther fortune, with great promises that after labour he should finde rest, after
kozmes

of *Chinon* of *England*.

Kozmes calmes, and after frowning aduersitie smiling prosperitie: and so on a sudden vanished away. When he (seeking vp and downe for her, whome by no meanes he could find) wondering how so rare beautie could be bred in such a homely soyle, whereas the *Earth* was vnfruitfull for want of tillage, the *Trees* vnorderly bearing frute for lacke of pruning, and the severall *Beasts* disagreeing in their owne kindes for want of ordering: plainly the true definition of solitarie desolation, that oft abounding in all things, is cause of decay to euerie thing. At last as he wandered along the *Riuer*, he heard excellent musique, and a moze excellent voyce tune forth this *Ditie*.

How sweete a thing is this Content
 To which poore countrie *Swaines* are borne
 These falls of Fortune they preuent,
 And other hard mishaps doo scorne.

Oh how thrice blessed had I beene,
 If (but obscurde in countrie weedes)
 Those mightie men I nere had scene,
 Whose loathed loue my sorrow breeds?

But such is the vnconstant state
 Of this still-changing Worlds delight,
 Making the meane a Princes mate,
 Crossing high hopes with low despight.

Which makes my Soule (in sad despaire)
 Die here ten thousand times a day,
 Woond vp within a world of care,
 Whence nought can it release away.

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When hee following the sound of the voyce, at length found her where she was sitting in the hollow side of a Rocke, heinmed round about with a show of such creatures as her selfe, to whom Chinon giues thus to bewray himselfe.

Oh thou more than thy selfe, in that thou retainest too heavenly a forme for anie earthly frame. How impartiall are the fates that turnes the neuer standing Wheele of Fortune, to grace with so continuall a Sunne this Soyle, and lowe with obscure shewes on other places. Goodesse of these Plaines that giuest more grace to these fields, than did the Goodesses to the place where they pleaded for the golden Prize. Hadst thou liued in those dayes when young Apollo loved, then hadst thou been the Paramour of Learnings Prince, and guided his will that now gouernes the World. For thy sake am I transported from the furthest place of the wide western World, into these eynged Plaines of euer ouer dried Egypt. For that will I follow the aduentures of Armes, so that when for thy sake I haue sought the World, and with my sword engraued (in neuer changing characters) thy God like name in the farthest corners of all breeding Earth, where no consuming fire, cutting sword, nor eating eternitie shall euer weare away thy memorie: so that for my labour thou wilt reward me with thy loue.

When with exceeding passion he had deliuered these speeches, with more than common admiration he paused, like one that were suddenly amayed wth the shewe of some vnacquainted sight, stood a long while as in a trance: when as the wylie Witch perceiving this new come Companion likely to marre what shee and false Perolus (by their practises) had been so long a making, begins to take once more the

of Chinon of England.

the charge of her tongue, and thus boldly begins to tie him to his task.

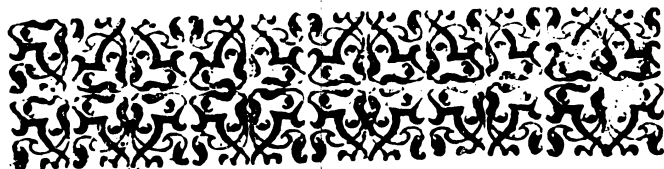
Faire Knight quoth shee, whose willing minde to doe me service, wins more reward than I am able any wise to bestow: If I were what now I am not, then would I doe what now I doe not, with fauour requite thy forward fortunes: but thus it is, and then she begins in a long Historie to relate her frowning fortunes. First dwelt she from the Court, then persecuted long time by her selfe to dwell solitarily vpon that vnpeopled soyle, and lastly when shee began to comfort her selfe with that country content: then solitarily to shut her vp in that place, where was no passage for any people to come to her, and shee depriued of all power to come out to them, & then telling how there rested no hope of redresse, if that for her sake some mighty man would not undertake a trebble task, worse than to mented Sisyphus hys soyle.

Which words wrought such a desire in the minde of this forward Knight, as beeing to performe more mighty deedes than those deedes of the olde Giants that heaping hill vpon hill assayed the height of heauen, he instantly begins to intreat that in this her charge, she would admit of him as her Champion.

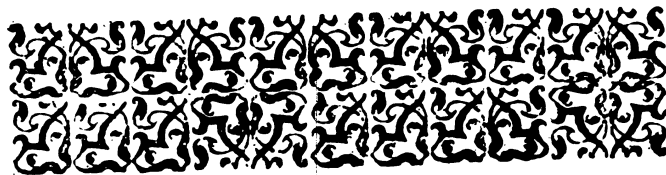
At which wordes the Hag that all this while had hid her substance in an inuisible shade, gins brag her to impose vpon him all those plagues shee had appointed the other three, and when by perswasive Oration was scarce done, hys eager minde that already was working for so faire a rewarde, like the sobring halwake, that swiftly takes the aduantage of the fearefull soule fares hee, that proud to himselfe so faire a Saint should so soone accept of his seruice, and imploy him in so serious a piece of seruice as was the remedy of her release, flies with all speed to effect hys purpose,

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and shee poore soule hoping well that one of her workmen would at last returne againe with the reward of their worke, with comfort contents her selfe to abide the end: where wee must a while leaue her very melancholily meditating with her selfe, howe shee might best spende her time in that wicked Prison, thinking euery houre to bee a whole yeare, and euery yeare a thousand, till shee had heard againe some newes of her searching seruants, that had spred them selues all abroad in the wide world to seeke her some meanes for to mittigate her miserie, and restore her to her former freedome againe, and nowe a while follow our seuerall Aduenturers for her aide, that by this time had trauailed far from the place where they first tooke in hand this iournie.



How



of Chinon of England.



CHAP. X.

How these brethren came to the seuerall places appointed by the sister, and of their aduenture there.



Trpander the eldest brother, who first vnderooke this charge, iourning through the spacious plains of Alia, hopelesse to finde: for that being long since, hee came to the side of the mountaine, where hee was promised to finde this viall of teares, and had almost sought euery seuerall corner of the same, and yet could finde no likelyhood of any such matter: Notwithstanding loathly to leane vnsought any place, where thewed any appearance of such a matter. At last he saw a farre off the rising as it were of an Alablaster Roche that halfe overshadowed a hole, artificially cut into the side of the hill: whether being him apace to see what thereby might be meant, came at last to the place, and there at the first seeing nothing that might any waies auarise him, was about to depart againe, till hearing somewhat hasting
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it self forth of the hole, he stood still to see what it might be, at last appeares vnto him the forepart as it were of an ouergrowne Cocke, but farre greater than any of that kinde, that with his fierie eyes poysons every object he sees, against whose force Terpander had prouidently prouided a bright Armour of Steele, which covered euery seuerall part of him, on whome when he looked, the reflexe of hys sight, sending back againe the dart of poyson to himselfe, that hee threw out at another, powerfully poysoned himselfe, the hinder part of this beast was framed after the manner of a Crocodiles tayle, such as are commonly resident about the bankes of Nilus in Egypt, that with the force thereof had bene able to haue brused the best proued Armour: with which when by the reuocation of hys ouer sight, he had lost the vse of his eyes hee lustily laid about, till such time as the vpper part of hys bodie forceably swelling with the inwarde working poyson, made him so vniwildie that now vnable to weald his body any more, was forced to fall downe, and with the power of the poyson shortly after died: which when Terpander perceaued that his foe was so soone foiled, taking it to be the place of which his sister had foretold, by reason that in her discourse, she described vnto him such a like keeper of that precious water, as was this same, that there kild with his owne weapon, lay dead before him, gins diligently to search vp and downe for the thing it selfe, which at last on the other side of the rocke he perceaued: where vnder a faire Lillics roote stode the treasure for which he had spent so much paines: which when he saw, hartely thanking those helping heaues, that had so mightely, not only preserved him from the force of hys foe, but also helped him to the inheritance of that hee so much desired, goes boldly forward to the place, where hee
saw

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saw this Lillic spring, & taking away the viall which he poyr soule toke to be no other than the teares of a virgin, that by such kind of meanes as his sister had described vnto him was placed there, and about to returne with ioyfull newes of his sisters deliuerance, hee had not gone farre from the place where first hee found it, ere the Viall beginning to warme with the heat of his hand, suddenly by vertus of the venomous water therein inclosed, infused such a contagious hate into euery seuerall vaine and sinnow of his body, as that wherewith the poysoned shirt was that enraged madding Hercules: So this poyr man, that for his good meaning, was thus recompensed with ill measure enraged with the extreme paine of his inuenedomed limmes, gins fall into a frantike humour, leaving the way should lead him backe againe to hys sister, and furiously without regard of himselfe, gins reuenge hys iniurie vpon senseles and brutish beastes, that had now lost all the power of a man.

This was the end the sorceres had intended should betide to him, that in hope to fetch his sisters blis should there finde his owne bane, and by some meanes or other kill himselfe, or els vnable to with reason to rule himselfe, should fall into the daunger of some wilde beast, who without pittying his case, might cast hym away. where we must leaue him in his lunacie, and come to the second brother, who by this time was attained to the appointed place, situate in the bosome of the Arabian deserts: where vpon a Cypresse branch he might a far off discern the golden instrument, on whose trembling strings the beauteous beames of the sunne delights to dally: Where vnderneath this dismall shade, so that now the sunne at the Zenith of this sphere, darts downe his perpendicular beames with such force vpon the face of the earth, as
makes

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makes euery creature seeke to shelter himselfe in the coole shades: for which cause this monster was then crept vnder the Cipresse shadowes, and ouercome with the heate of the aire was then faine a sleepe: to whome when Micander came nere, diligently be-
ing each seuerall part of his deformed body, for that the Instrument hung high vpon the tree, and without stirring this stubborne beast could no waies be come by prepares himselfe after the best manner hee could to Combat with this Curre, and when he had buckled on his Armour, made readie his weapon and was not encouraged to encounter with his enemy, gins with some such noyse as then hee made to rouse hym from his rest.

When as the Canniball like the throted Dogge whome Phelous awaked in the Gates of hell, sends out such a hideous crie, as affrighted the neighboring Birdes and Beastes that inhabite that part of the world with his terrible sounde, and shaking of himselfe, gins hee in his vpper parts the perfect forme of a Dogge with long eares, which long hanging eares that exceeded the substance of the greatest spaniels, hang well nie downe to his middle. From the middle downeward he had the shape of a man, big boned as are these wilde people that liuing lawlesse in such vnruled places, feeding themselves after their fashion vpon the fat of the earth, cut growes the common sort of well guided people, and taking vp from the earth a great Iron club, such as was in his iudgement too big to be swayed by a man, without any warning. gins fall to his weapon: where betwixt them two was begun a dangerous fight, & long time continued with vncertaine hope of success, till Micander nimble eschuing the weight of his weapons fall, gins get within his reach, & so carues his skinned bones

of Chinon of England.

bones with his well tempered sword: which for that purpose he had only prouided. that in short time hee made him with the great issue of blood that fell from his wounds so weake, as he was not able any more to beare the waight of his blowes, but was forced to fall vnder his foe: which when Micander perceaued, he straight waies dismembers him of all his limmes and leaues nothing behinde for his helpe, but the naked bulke of his body, and then reaching downe from the tree that fatall instrument, (which the Witch to another end than hee aimed at had prepared,) gins turne back his course, and with that Consozt, hee him home to comfort his sister.

As thus hee was traouailing to his long wished for place of ariuall sodainely hee determined with himselfe to trie what was the harmonic of that famous instrument, that with his sound coulde call the senselesse trees from their rootes, remoue the craggie Rockes from their Cliffts, mitigate the reuenging wrath of brutish deuouring beasts, compose concord betwixt the Lambe and the Lyon, the Hound and the Hare, the Falcon and the fillie fowle: whose strings he had no sooner touched, but determining with himselfe to sing some delightfome Ditty to the sweet tenth of these siluer sounding stringes, for ioi hee had compassed his desire. The powers of his tongue denying any more to execute their office, hee was sodainely stricken dumbe, which was the plague this witch had pretended should light on him, by the Spagicke made sound of this Instrument, which was nothing els but an illusion as were all the rest, to draw these brethren into danger, where we wil leaue him making what shift his dumb demeaner affords him to trauell homeward, and come now at last to the third brother. Theomas that by the fauorable hope

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of winde and weather was nowe arriued vpon the perillous Iland: where coming into the Temple of Ergana the wise Inchauntresse, that was richly adorned with all peculiar thinges thereunto belonging. At the vpper end thereof vpon an Altar of cleare Chystal that was couered with a curious cloth of gold, ouer whome was hung the perfect picture of an ancient woman, which woman was the sozenamed Erganea, there stiovt two golden Candlestickes that were filled with two continuall burning Tapers censsing the Temple with sweet saouours, lyes a golden booke which was kept by two harpies, monstrous byrdes, halfe Women, and halfe Serpents, that with their winges so beats the young aduenturer, as hee was scarce able to abide theyr force.

But as hee that looking still vpon the goles is better encouraged to goe forward, hee that sees the harbour, takes greater paines to get home, hee that is neare an end of his labour, thinkes all the paines but little hee hath to spend: So fares it with Theonas, that looking vpon the end whereto hee had endeouored himselfe, thinkes the paines but a pleasure hee endured, & in short time so behaved himselfe, as that he had ouerthrowne one of his enemies, and then like the Hart, that by casting his hozne, renues his strength, the Eagle by losing his bill strengthens his sight so he at the sight of his fall, begins to fight a fresh, and in short time had the like success of the one as before he had found in the other: so that nowe there was no partition betwixt him and his pray, but that he might take away the booke, to which when hee came, opening it that hee might see an eye witnes what was there included, in stead of those powerfull spels that there he shuld haue read, from out the closure thereof came such a duffie fogge, as filling his eies with a blacke

of Chinon of England.

blacke myst like vnto pitchie smoake he was suddenly stricken blind, and there left to grope his way back, that came thether with the perfect vse of his eyes. This Booke (as were both the rest) was nothing els but a deceipt of the Inchaunteresse, to drawe thether one of these Brethren; where (in stead of releuing their Siller) they might inthrall themselves. Thus poore Theonas (euen in the prime of his Spring) hauing lost the vse of this light, which is the especial comfort of mans life, wanders vp and down like old forsaken Oedipus in his erilde life: where we must a while leaue him in this pitteous case with his Brethren.



CHAP. XI.

How Chinon met with these Brethren severally one after another, and what became thereof.



By this time was Chinon come to the place where we first left Theonander mad after hee had taken by the Trench of Water: who seeing him fare so with himselfe, rending by trees by the rootes, tearing vp mightie stenes from theyr places where they stood, and tumbling them downe from the tops

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tops of high hills, into the bottomes of deepe vallies; who (notwithstanding his misfortune) kept still the Tiall about him untouched: to whom Chinon came wondering to see what man should walke that waye, begins to question with him about the manner of his coming thither: To whom the mad man far vnlike himselfe, (for that before he was courteous, but now contrarie to his kinde hee had changed his countenance to hair-brained crueltie and in stead of courteous behauiour, answers him in rayling opprobrious termes, and at the length begins with force to assaile him as an enemy; which Chinon perceiuing, closing with the mad man as hee came to encounter with him forceable casts him downe, & taking from him the Tiall of water, which all this while hee had kept closely in his handes, begins to looke what it should be the poore soule had in such request, when suddenly by the like mischance that the other was changed, himselfe was with Lunacie presently possessed: and raging like Ajax after his foyle for Vlysses his armour, or mightie Alcides when on the Mountaine Oeta he built the Altare whereon himselfe was sacrificed, tearing his clothes from his backe, the hayres from his head, and launcing with deepe wounds the limmes of his bodie; releases Tulpander from the plague wherewith he was possessed, and brings it vpon himselfe. Which the other perceiuing how hee was deliuered from that daunger, pittied the wofull estate of this worthy Man, but helpe him hee could not, for that such was his inuincible strength, now by the force of his furie much more augmented, which force neither man nor beast, stocke nor stone, nor any other creature whatsoever was able to stand in his hand: so that in short time, what with his vnoorderly tracing through vnfrequented passages to finde full

of Chinon of England.

ell for his fire, and his swift paces that still ouer-went the other wearie wearie man, who had tyred himself before in his furie, Chinon was quite gone out of his sight, whom wee must now leaue after the recouery of his wits, traucelling home againe into his owne Countrey, to seeke out some other meanes for the release of his Sister, and followe Chinon. who raging and raving like an angrie Lion at last ouer-takes Micander, who (poore man) as quiet for the sorrow he had lost the vse of his tongue, as the other vnruely in his rage, seeing him a farre off, staid still to expect the euent of his sudden approach; when the madde man coming to him gins with vnseemly behauior to abuse the other poore distressed Soule, and wylly force pulling from him the Instrument which he was loth to lose, though by it he had incurred such a displeasure: yet at last Chinon (farre stronger than the other) perforce pulls it away, and aduancing with his fingers to strike the strings, was at the first sound thereof stricken dumbe, wherof as soone as Chinon was possessed, Micander was straight waye released. Which infirmitie when Chinon perceaued in himselfe, redoubling the rigour of his handes for the vse hee had lost of his tongue, gins furiously to fall vpon Micander and beate him, for being the Authour of his ill: which the other perceiuing, farre vnable to sustaine the strength of his stroke makes meanes to escape his hands, which by his swift flight hee soone attayned. So in short time ridding of himselfe enough from the feare of this foe, hee for his owne safetie, takes home the narrow waye hee could finde into his owne Countrey.

In the meane time Chinon wandring wylfully thus about the World all carelesse where hee went, because he to sooner hee turned, euerie where lay

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lay his way, at last comes downe vnto the Sea side, where by chaunce he findes a Boate readie furnished with all prouision nere necessarie for the Sea; who (after the manner of such madde men) leaping thereinto, (though ignorant what to do: or careles whither to go, more than to satisfie his mad humour) launched from thence, and making shift to set vp his saile, was quickly conueyed farre from the sight of anie Land into the midst of the merciles seas, sayling to and fro manie dayes not fearing to be drowned, because he perceiued nothing: nor expecting anie place whether to goe, for that he scarce knew, where he was either at sea or on shore. But at the last (lying with his Earke before the Winde) he was suddenly diuened on shore vpon an Island, where (leaping a land) he betooke himselfe to trauaile vp into the countrie, to see what people it did afford: where he had not long trauelled, but a farre off vpon the side of a Hill he espied one sadly sitting by himselfe, towards whom he made what hast he possibly could.

This was the yongest Brother of these three, that before we told ye of was stricken blind by looking in to the enchanted Booke; to whom when he came, suddenly snatching the Booke out his hande (after his fond furious fashion) opens the claspes to see what was therein contained, when suddenly issued out such another fogge, as that wherewith Theonias was stricken blinde, and in like manner bedazzels his eyes: when presently Theonias was againe restored vnto his sight, and wending to see there so goodly a man possessed with so manie plagues at once, giues then with himselfe consider how it should come to passe: who for that himselfe was vnacquainted with what had happened to his other Brethren, could geasse at none but that which lately he was punished wythall him,

of Chinon of England.

himselfe: one, so that the reasonlesse Span (for all these troubles wherewith hee was tormented) could not (by his meanes) be brought within the compasse of quiet behauiour, thought it best to prouide some meanes for his owne escape, and leaue hym there to the mercie of G D D, that would not be ruled by the meanes of a man; so he betooke himselfe to his Journey, where wee must also leaue him (ridde by thys meanes of a mischiefe) retourning to seeke his Brethren, and take some other order for their enchanted Sister.

The Inchauntresse now (that all this while saue the issue of this matter) growing that her cunning should be so crossed, and yet ioying that all these punishments were light vpon his head, whom she before feared more than all the rest: set all her wits a worke, to deuise a meanes how shee might (now hauing him at such a vantage) make him sure for euer escaping out of her hands againe. Forseeing, that by his meanes all this scattered kindred were likely to be restored againe to their former estate. And therefore (by her power) incloses him within the clift of a Rocke, against which she rouled vp a mightie Stone, such as the force of manie ordinarie men was not able to remoue: and so least by any meanes he might be recovered out of this inchaunted Castle, shee places as Doore before the doore thereof a mightie Creature, twice as great and grim as the ordinarie kinde of such ouer-grown Creatures vse to be. Where, when hee was inclosed (suppling him now safe enough from anie resort that should bring him release) she was content all his plagues should cease, and hee (the more to aggrauate his griefe) be restored againe to his wits; which was effected as speedily as determined,

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So soner was he closely shut vp into that vncom-
fortable Cabin, but all his Instruments (by whose
meanes he came by those crosses) as his Water, his
Harpe, and his Booke vanished away, and he him-
selfe restozed (as I before said) againe to the same e-
state of sense as he was before, his libertie onely ex-
cepted: where we must now awhile leaue him in his
melancholy Cell, and retourne againe into England,
to see the sorow of olde Cadors Duke of Cornwall, for
the sudden departure (without taking leaue) of Chi-
non his Sonne.



CHAP. XII.

How Arthur of England sent three of his
Knights to search for Chinon, & how they
found him.



Ador Earle of Cornwall whilst that
these things were thus by this di-
uelish Inchauntresse effecting, still
spent his yeares in sorow for the
sudden losse of his Sonne, and at
last (wearied with too much grief)
he intended to make some friend-
ly meanes to the King, for to haue his royall fauour
and

of Chinon of England.

and helpe for his recouerie. Therefore on this deter-
mining, he repaired one day to the Court, and there
finding the King and all his Knights, as carefull for
his crosse misfortune as himselfe, gins in very humi-
ble manner (yet with honourable regard) thus to in-
treate his Maestie.

Most royall Soueraine (for whom from my first
able yeares my seruice hath been imployed) vouch-
safe me in my decayed yeares this Kingly comfort:
Send forth I beseech you) some of his worthie fel-
low Knights to seeke Chinon my Sonne; who albeit
he hath yet deserued little either of your Grace or of
them, yet his forward endeuour hath alway shewne
he would much more ere this haue merited, had not
envious fortune cross him in this sort.

To whom the King and all his Nobles present did
most willingly condescend. Then calling together all
the knightly companie of his Round Table, decla-
red to them Duke Cadors request, and his owne rea-
diness to haue it undertaken: who all were not one-
ly to goe in Quest of Chinon, but each man manifest-
ed his more than common earnestnes, by taking of-
fence if anie one were named beside himselfe. To
ende this controuersie, the King thus prouided, that
enierie man should drawe his Lot, and on whom soe-
uer it fell, that Knight should forthwith chuse hym
two fellowes from the rest of the Companie, and so
they three shuld take vpon them this desired trauaile.
The Lots accordingly were made, and enierie one of
the Knights drew, and the Lot fell vpon Sir Calor,
who was Sonne vnto Sir Lancelot du Lake and the
beauteous Celestina Daughter to the King of France,
whose Parents Chinon before valiantly rescued, be-
ing betraied and taken in the hands of the treacherous
Mordant.

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But before their departure, it was thought conuenient (for the better furtherance of their Journey) to take some counsell of Merlin, who then liued accounted as a Prophet in England, and by his skill could tell of secreete things forpast, and hidden mysteries to come.

Merlin being sent for by the Kings commandement, came to the Court, and shewes them in a speculatiue Glasse the manner of his departure out of England, the manie troubles hee had endured in his Journey, and now at last opens at large the whole manner of that great miserie whereunto he is now brought by the meanes of that subtil Inchauntresse: telling them further, that except they made verie exceeding great speed for to procure his release, hee was likely to dye there for want of reliefe, being there detained from all necessaries fit to sustaine a man; or at least hauing of those necessaries a verie short pitifance allowed him.

Merlin hastening them forward on their journey, promised al the cunning he could afford for their speedie conueyance, which he effectually perfourmed, so that in short time they were arrived in this perillous Iland: where after long search for the place wherein Merlin did promise they should finde their friend, at last they might espie this monstrous man, laylour to that vnfortunate Knight, stretching himselfe at the mouth of the Caeue wherein Chinon was kept. To him they made all possible speede, and first of all Sir Calor addressing himselfe to fight, gins before hee offered violence with courteous greetings to salute hym gently, demanding what he was that liued so desolatly in that vnfrequented Iland: To whom the bested and currish Carle made this vnmanly answer.

I am

of Chinon of England.

I am quoth hee as thou seest, one within whose clawes thou and the rest of thy sawrie companions haue compassed your selues: if therefore you will submit your selues to my mercy, then will I thus dispose of you here within a hollow Caeue he wone out of this craggie Rock, wherein lyes inclosed a knight such a one as you are, who for the like offence that you now haue offered, is condemned to the eternall slauerie of perpetuall imprisonment, within shall you spend your hatefull liues, and when for hunger you are welnie starued, fall freshly then to eat one anothers flesh, but if you stubboznelly stand out against mee, thus will I dispoyle you in renting your cursed limmes peece meale a sunder, or els fastning you seuerall to the big bulks of some of these trees: where when the imperiall punishment of hastning hunger shall seaze vpon your selues, you shall there be informed to eat your owne flesh that might here haue fed vpon another, to whome Sir Calor thus answered.

Soule vglie fiend, wee come not to kneele to thee, but to force thy subiection to vs and for the release of a Christian Knight that thou keepest Captiue within thy power.

At which wordes the Giant seeing them addresse themselves to fight, presently bestirs himselfe, and taking an Iron mace, (which to that ende the Witch had prouided) lets driue at Sir Calor with all the might he could, from which he nimbly leaping away eschued the force of the fall, wheras the other knights comming in to rescue sir Calor, before the Giant could againe get by his weapon from the grounde, they had so mangled his limmes, as he was now far vnable to fight, but falling prostrate downe before them, humbly intreats for his life: which they were willing to graunt, as not seeking the losse of him, but

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The life of their friend, to whome the Giant gins relate all the manner of the imprisonment of Chinon, and at the last opens the doore of the Cave, and calles him out to his friends, who resaluting one another with such friendly greetings as are vsuall at such adventures accidents, take their iournie from thence by into the Countrie, and for that the Giant had tolde them in hys former discourse of the manner of Chinons imprisonment, how that Perofus for whose loue all this had come about, had in Egypt taken Armes against the King, for that his treason being discovered, he intended to recal old Bessarian from his banishment, and that his power so daylie increased, as that it was now far greater than the Kings. they intended to shape their iournie thetherwards and help the king in his warres against this traiterous rebbell: where wee must let them goe forward a while in their iourney, and returne againe to our three aduenturers for their sisters libertie.

How



of Chinon of England.



CHAP. XIII.

How Bessarians sonnes met with their Father in the shape of a Beare.



After that these three yong men were againe restored to their former estate, Terpander the first of them traouailing homewards to seeke againe his sister, metes by the way his transformed Father, who not a little glad to see his sonne, though the other taking him for no lesse than he seemed, made some hast to fly from him, till looking backe and perceiving the scroule about his necke for the regaining of his harts desire, strikes his poore father with such a blow, as breaking his sword vpon the scalpe of his head, he was forced to flie for want of weapons, fearing least the Beare should haue fallen freshly vpon him, being tyred when as God knowes the sillie man astenished with the stroke, was rather afraid of an vnnaturall death wrought by his sonne, then willing to prosecute any revenge for the same.

Not long after Terpander had thus hurt his Father, comes that way the second brother, who in like case meeting with the Beare and heping by his death to obtaine his desire, gins with a Wordespeare hee had in his hand eagerly to assaile him, in so much that in
tho

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short time hee had gricuously wounded hym, but the head of his weapon by chance breaking off, hee was forced to flie as did his brother: to be short the Witch that intended by the meanes of some of these sonnes, to make away their father. After that the first two had sayled, brought thether the third, who eager to accomplish his desire, promised by the scroule that hung about hys fathers necke, begins a fresh fight, & so wounded his sillie sire, as that for want of blood which hys weapon had lauishly lanced out, hee was forced to fall downe, whome Theonas supposing to be dead, left there to follow his desire.

In the meane time whilest these thinges were thus in doing had there bene fought a great battaile in Egypt, betwixt Egbaton their king, and Perofus the traitour, of whome before we told you: where by the meanes of the Englishmen the king overcame, and Perofus was put to flight: who for his sauegard forsaking hys Countrie, betooke himselfe to the Mountaines: where after hee had long traueiled, hee by chance met with Bessarian transformed, as afore wee haue t. You, who hauing somewhat recouered himselfe after the wounds of his sonnes, fearing least his foe should at his sight flie away, layes sodaine holde vpon him.

At which Perofus being afraid seeing himselfe assailed, gins make all the meanes hee could for hys escape: but the other loath to requite him euill for hys ill dealing, in steede of such rancinous behaviour, as commonly is found in such like beasts, gently fauours vpon him, the wing himselfe rather willing to helpe him, than readie to hurt him.

When Perofus calling to mind hys former offence in the bewitching of the old man, and seeing by the writing about his necke, that this was he whome hee had

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so cruelly cross, fallles downe before him, & with mistiue teares intreats his pardon: to whome the Beare though unable to sprake, yet with dumbe demeanes shewing the effect of his minde, answers in dum tokens what he could not tel in plausible words: to whom Perofus there promised, that would hee but follow him, hee would soorthwith conduct hym to the place where hys daughter was imprisoned, & where he hoped also to meet with her, by whose meanes all this was brought to passe.

In the meane time Chinon and his fellow knights following their foes from the fight, by chance intercepted Europa the Witch as shee was flying awaie, whome presently they intending to kill, & shee knowing very well their crueltie, fell downe before them, humbly asking pardon for her life, and in requitall thereof shee would restore to liberty, her for whose sake Chinon had suffered all this extremitie, than which Chinon desiring nothing more graunts her request, whome shee presently transpotes to the place where Cassiopea lay imprisoned: where when they came, they found her three brethren dilating vnto her theyr seuerall ill luckes, whome as soone as they came, the Witch released from the bondage of the Rocke, and falling downe on her knees askes hartie pardon for her amis, to whome the Lady glad of her release straight forgives that offence, and then Europa telling her the great perill Chinon had overpassed for hys love: shee with all curtesie fallles downe at hys feete, submitting her selfe for requitall thereof to be disposed at hys pleasure, whom he taking vp from the ground, offering himselfe like wife to her.

In the meane time whilest these folkes were thus reioycing, comes in Perofus leading of the transformed olde man, and humbly there asking pardon of them

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them all for his offence, telling them the manner
he had found the old man, who was by the meanes
the Witch presently restored to his former shape, and
then returning all backe to the Court to certifie the
king of their severall affaires. Bellarian was then
againe restored to his dignity, & Peroius severely
punished for his offence, & Chinon and
Cathop by the consent of their friends,
and mutuall love of themselves,
were matched together
in marriage.

FINIS.

